

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, August 29, 2013

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Saunders speaks

Why I should have been given more time at Wolves

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Picture of teen crash victim, 19 released



Killed – Thomas Oakes

THE first picture of a tragic motorcycleist, killed when his bike smashed into railings, has been released.

Thomas Oakes, aged 19, died when the blue Yamaha bike he was riding hit metal railings at the junction of Amber Way and Coombs Road in Halesowen on Saturday at about 6.50pm.

Devastated relatives of the Halesowen teenager have not commented following his death.

Meanwhile, friends of the teenager have flooded social media websites with tributes. Nellie Povey wrote: "He was one of the nicest young men I knew, and I'm honoured to have had him as a good friend."

Alex Dudley wrote: "Very proud to have called Tom a friend. R.I.P bro." He added: "It makes you realise how short life can be." Sergeant Neil Higgins said: "It doesn't appear any other vehicles were involved or that anyone else was injured in the collision."

Canal work deadline set

BOSSES at Dudley Canal Trust are hoping to start work on both phases of a £3.3 million visitor and heritage centre by the end of the year.

They say they are 'quietly optimistic' that a bid for £997,000 of European funding for the scheme will be successful. The attraction has already been awarded £989,200 for the scheme from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

SECOND RAID BY YOBS AT CENTRE

by Andrew Turton

VANDALS have attacked a pensioners' day centre in Halesowen – making it the second raid to take place at the site within a week.

Around £3,000 worth of damage has been caused at the Age Concern Day Centre in the latest raid.

Yobs ripped off locks to steal a power washer and battery chargers for the centre's minibus, which is used to transport pensioners around. They also managed to force their way into the vehicle to turn on the radio, which drained the battery.

It is hoped the minibus will be back on the road soon. Volunteers have called in help from a nearby garage.

It is the second time in around seven days that the centre, in Green Lane, has been targeted. Intruders burst into the centre itself, which serves meals for 40 pensioners a day from 65 to 100 each day, last Monday, stealing cash, raffle prizes and causing £6,000 of damage.

Food bought to cook meals was also taken from fridges and freezers by thieves who then urinated on anything they could not carry.

Centre director and Halesowen Councillor Ken Turner described their actions as 'sickening' and vowed to tighten security further.

New alarm and CCTV systems were installed at the centre, which re-opened last Thursday after being shut for three days.

The latest attack happened sometime between Friday evening and yesterday morning when volunteers arrived to open up.

Vandals also damaged the wheelchairs stored in the sheds. "This is sickening to happen again for the second time in a few days," said Councillor Turner.

Volunteers clean up with fundraiser



Jordan Edgar, David Matty, Alan Bower, Afia Sirkhot from McDonald's, Wayne Edwards, Georgie Melia, Calem Gardner and Alex Burton pool their manpower to wash a car to raise funds for next month's Great Black Country Run

BUCKETS and sponges were at the ready as scouts and rotary club members made a splash as they held a car wash to drum up support for this year's Great Black Country Run.

The fundraiser took place at McDonald's in Halesowen to promote the event, which takes place in the town on September 22.

There will be a 5k fun run and a 10k road race to appeal to runners of all ages and abilities. It is being organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis

Rotary Club. Members were joined by youngsters from Howley Grange Scouts for the car wash to raise awareness of the event.

Together they washed dozens of vehicles with the help of Lye firm SYR which donated the necessary equipment. They also collected donations which will be given to the Scout group.

Rotarian and event director Alan Bowler said: "The day went very well. We washed lots of cars and we handed out flyers to promote the run. We are

grateful to McDonald's for their support." Mr Bowler added that it had been confirmed that Halesowen-born kickboxing champion Simon Akufo would be starting the run.

The Great Black Country Run will benefit a range of good causes, including Sunfield School in Clent, Midland Air Ambulance, MacMillan Nurses and Birmingham Children's Hospital's cancer unit. For further information on the event visit www.greatblackcountryrun.com

Statue of two lions stolen in house raid

A DISTINCTIVE bronze statue of two lions and electrical equipment has been stolen from a house near Halesowen.

Burglars struck at the property in Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington, while its owner was away.

The statue was worth £300.

Other items taken were two coal-effect electric fires, valued at £400, a flat-screen Panasonic TV worth £400, a £150 horizontal surround system and a DVD player worth £60.

A Canon camera was also stolen. Pc Paul Letts said the burglary had taken place between July 29 and August 12.

"Hunnington is quite a small village and we would like to hear anyone who saw suspicious activity between those dates or who has been offered any of the stolen property for sale," he said.

"In particular people may have seen the statue of the two lions and the wall-mounted coal effect fires which are fairly unusual items."

Witnesses, or anyone with information, are asked to call Bromsgrove CID on the non-emergency 101 number.

People can also pass details on anonymously to the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111.

Hippo group in costs plan

A CAMPAIGN group fighting to save Dudley Hippodrome is planning to slash potential running costs by up to 80 per cent by seeking charitable status.

The move would help the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome reduce business rates for running the Castle Hill theatre and boost its plans to reopen the venue.

The trust would be able to claim an exemption from tax on most forms of income and capital gains, if they are applied to charitable purposes. Group members believe they would shave cash off the £39,732 paid out in business rates before the bingo hall shut in 2009.

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CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Halesowen who can help:

Tom Mason: 01902 319550
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlotte Lilley: 01902 319688
charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk
Will Ackermann: 01543 465305
will.ackermann@expressandstar.co.uk
Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Sharon Marris: 01384 353209
sharon.marris@expressandstar.co.uk
Louise Jew: 01384 353201
louise.jew@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex.ross@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk
Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk

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Sports: E-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk
Photographic: John Samuels
Tel: 01902 319431

Advertising:

Nikki Cope
Tel: 01902 319573 E-mail: n.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

Emma Parkes
Tel: 01384 535234 E-mail: e.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Engineers go full steam ahead for stardom



TM workers pose with the Hairy Bikers

AN ENGINEERING firm has taken a starring role in helping to recreate the largest steam locomotive in the country on a television show.

TV chefs-turned-engineering enthusiasts Dave Myers and Si King, known to fans as the Hairy Bikers, stopped off in Kingswinford to film a segment of their show Restoration Road Trip.

It aired on Sunday on BBC2. The pair arrived at TM Specialist Engineers, based in Oak Lane, to help forge two huge wheels for the project to reconstruct steam train famously known as The Night Owl.

The two large locomotive wheels were machined for the project. Specialist engineers at the firm used

CNC machine tools to replicate the machining of the cast wheels for the locomotive.

Managing Director of TM Specialist Engineers Robert Holland said he was delighted to be a part of such a fantastic project. "It was great to have the Hairy Bikers down here and they also had a tour around the firm too to see what else we do," he said. "The finished product is a wonderful testament to their skill and craftsmanship."

The work has been overseen by project engineering manager Paul Carpenter who is also one of the leading engineers for the project run by the Great Western Society.

Armed raid prisoner in escape gets jail increase

AN INMATE serving an eight-year jail term for an armed robbery in the West Midlands, who escaped from prison by scaling a fence, has been locked up for an extra six months.

Daljeet Dhadwal, of Kidderminster Road, Stourbridge, was sentenced in January 2011 after terrorising a couple and their three children when he burst into their home in Handsworth, Birmingham.

But Wolverhampton Crown Court heard he got out of the HMP Sudbury open prison in Derbyshire by climbing over the perimeter fence on March 5 this year. The 34-year-old was on the run for four months but was found out when he was arrested for shoplifting.

He was picked up on July 5 after stealing from a branch of Holland and Barrett in Birmingham – but originally gave false details. However, police soon found out his real identity.

Mr Sarbjit Singh Lalli, defending, said Dhadwal had been an 'ideal prisoner' and had been well-behaved until the escape.

More than 40 jobs go in Challinors collapse

FORTY-SIX redundancies have been made after West Midland law firm Challinors went into administration, it has emerged.

The firm, which had offices in Halesowen, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton, had debts totalling about £11.4million.

Some of the company's 200 strong staff across its seven sites have found jobs with other law firms which have taken on some of Challinors' business.

Birmingham firm Clarke Willmott has bought some of the private client and commercial litigation teams.

Stephen Rosser, chief executive at Clarke Willmott, said: "Growing our Birmingham offering is part of our three-year strategy. Our main priority is to ensure a seamless transition for Challinors' clients and we will be working with the administrators and Challinors' partners in order to achieve this."

Another Birmingham firm Shoosmiths has also taken a large part of the Challinors' operations.

Tightening

Partner and head of private client Richard Follis said: "This is an important and very experienced team, and their joining demonstrates Shoosmiths' commitment to this challenging and highly specialist field of work."

Administrators said a tightening of financial regulations in the legal industry, as well as the reduction in government funding, had left the company with debts of about £11.4 million.

Joint Administrator Andrew Hosking said: "A number of staff have joined those two firms."

He said it was possible that the Halesowen office, Hyfield House in Hagley Road, might be sold to another local firm, but it was unlikely that buyers for the other offices would be found.

The firm's personal injury

work has already been sold to Liverpool firm SGI Legal for an undisclosed sum.

Mr Hosking said that the Solicitors' Regulation Authority had been very supportive of the partners in recent weeks and Challinors had engaged a number of consultants leading up to going into administration.

"We have been very pleased by the efforts to date," he said. "The partners have been very good and the authority has been wonderful and given a great deal of assistance."

Challinors, like other firms in the legal profession, has faced a tightening of financial regulations. In the economic downturn they have also faced a situation where their revenues have been capped or reduced in areas like legal aid," he said.

Challinors, which has 12 partners, owes money to about 250 creditors including almost £500,000 to Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs. It was set up as Challinor & Roberts in 1948, then merged with West Bromwich firm Lyon Clark in 1996 to form Challinors Lyon Clark.

They later acquired Halesowen firm White & Billingham in 2009. Challinors, which was ranked as one of the top legal firms in the West Midlands, acquired Wolverhampton private law practice Shelton Solicitors in July 2009.

Chain firm vital link Val retires



MD Tim Burgess with Val Tromans who is retiring from William Hackett Chains Ltd

A WOMAN who worked with three generations of famous Black Country chain makers has retired after 56 years.

Val Tromans from Halesowen worked at William Hackett Chains Limited in Maypole Fields, Cradley, during which she has seen the once heavy industry replaced by modern processes.

She began her time in the office in 1957 after leaving Castle College in Dudley when she was hired as a receptionist for the firm.

Over the years she worked her way up the company ladder and eventually became the

financial controller. She said: "I have really enjoyed my time at the company and always loved my job."

The 71-year-old grandmother of two is now looking forward to her retirement and enjoys walking and keeping fit.

Managing Director Tim Burgess has headed the historic firm for the past eight years. He said that Val would be sadly missed by staff and clients.

He said: "She's the face of William Hackett. It's going to be very hard to replace her."

Closure due during work

A ROAD in Rowley Regis will be closed for a day so a defective manhole can be replaced.

Halesowen Street is set to be closed from 9.30am to 3.30pm on September 2, and only part of the road will be affected by the closure.

Vehicles will be prevented from travelling between Bassano Road and the roundabout located at the entrance to the supermarket. Traffic will be diverted along Bassano Road, High Street, Long Lane, Homer Way and Halesowen Street.

Vegas sounds coming to club

AN EVENING of music from The Rat Pack, Elvis Presley, Tom Jones and The Drifters is being held tonight. Blackheath Conservative Club, is playing host to vocalist Ian Casey's take on The Rat Pack and The Best of Vegas, kicking off at 8.15pm.

Mr Casey can regularly be heard as the vocalist with The Phoenix Big Band. Tickets for the night are available for £4 on the door, at the venue on The Causeway, Blackheath.

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Nuisance bikes will be seized, say police

POLICE will seize scrambler and mini moto-type bikes in a new crackdown following complaints about riders tearing around a disused quarry in Kinver.

Residents living near the site off Gibbet Lane have reported problems with riders causing a nuisance in the area.

Officers from Staffordshire Police said in recent weeks people had been accessing the quarry site to ride the bikes. On one occasion police turned several men away from the site who were all in possession of off-road bikes and mopeds looking to ride around.

They were warned, if they were caught again in 12 months, their vehicles would be confiscated.

They are increasing patrols at the site over the coming weeks and will be stopping people driving or riding in an inconsiderate or careless manner.

Ch Insp Donna Gibbs, from South Staffordshire local policing team, said: "The warmer weather and longer days are often accompanied by a rise in reports about vehicle-related antisocial behaviour.

Staffordshire county and Kinver parish councillor Brian Edwards said he welcomed the crackdown.

"It has been a problem there for many years. I'm pleased that police are doing patrols there because it does cause a lot of noise nuisance for residents," he added.

Park revamp cash on way

THOUSANDS of pounds will be spent on revamping a park in Wordsley with community volunteers preparing to unveil plans for their new attraction.

Campaigners have long called for King George V Park to be rejuvenated after concerns it was untidy with litter strewn around fields and flowerbeds.

They had also voiced fears the park, off Lawnswood Road, was becoming a hangout for youths.

But the Friends of Wordsley Park group say they are excited as they prepare to reveal the latest redevelopment plans drawn up with youth associations and sports clubs. Around £40,000 will be spent on creating a new sensory garden for children.

New-look resource and maths centre unveiled



The new centre called Dudley Enhance, set to be built

A NEW artist's impression of a resource and maths centre which is being built as part of the multi-million pound redevelopment of Dudley College has been unveiled.

The picture was released as bosses revealed work on the scheme has been brought forward. Education chiefs say there has been a higher than expected uptake of courses following the success of its new sixth form centre Dudley Sixth, which opened in September.

More than 1,000 students have applied for a place at the centre, off Ednam Road, this year bringing it to capacity level. As a result work will now start on Dudley Enhance, which will provide specialist courses for post

16 students studying maths, next month. The modern building will be situated between the existing Dudley Sixth and the planned new engineering and manufacturing centre Dudley Advance which will open in autumn 2014.

Dudley College principal Lowell Williams said: "After receiving over 1,000 applications this year from bright, young people applying to study A-levels in the fantastic new facility, the two storey building is expected to be at capacity."

"With 150 returning second year students and up to 350 new learners just setting out on their A-level studies, the new Enhance facility is essential to provide the right learning environment and resources to support our students."

He added: "Dudley Enhance will definitely live up to its name. It's been designed to enhance our A-level students' learning experience and provide them with the facilities and space they need."

"The new building will be a fantastic addition to the Learning Quarter. When both Dudley Enhance and Dudley Advance, our new centre for advanced manufacturing, engineering and technology, are complete, this area of Dudley will be transformed into a vibrant, modern campus equipped to develop the next generation of brilliant minds and skilled employees."

NEWS

in brief

Mayor urges event support

THE MAYOR of Dudley is urging people to show their support for the heroes of the Battle of Britain at a special event on September 15.

The day will include a service at St Thomas and St Luke's Church, known as Top Church, a parade by borough Air Training Corps through the town centre and the laying of wreaths at the cenotaph in Ednam Road, Dudley.

Councillor Alan Finch, Mayor of Dudley, said: "I hope people will be able to come along on the day and show their support."

At 11am cadets from the borough's Air Training Corps will parade through the town centre. Setting off from Priory Road, the parade will continue along New Street, into High Street. Residents are invited to attend a service at St Thomas and St Luke's Church at 11.30am.

Jobs project in final of awards

A PROJECT set up to help fill health jobs in the Black Country has been announced as a finalist in a top awards ceremony.

The Learning Works project was set up following a review of how vacancies at Sandwell, City and Rowley Regis Hospitals and Sandwell community health services are filled.

The project was designed to sustain recruitment and succession planning to encourage local people into long term careers in the health service.

It has now been announced as a finalist in the workforce category of the Health Service Journal awards.

The award winners will be announced at a special ceremony on November 19.

Stolen cycles found in room

A MAN has been jailed for six weeks after he admitted handling goods stolen in a series of shed and garage break-ins.

Two mountain bikes worth £800 and a remote-control car worth £50 were found in a bedroom at Tommy Smith's home in Linden Avenue, Walshe estate, Stourport.

They had been stolen during break-ins in Beach Road and Princess Way, Stourport.

The 33-year-old admitted handling stolen goods and was jailed by Kidderminster magistrates.

Family party marks Florence's 100th



Florence Taylor marks her 100th with relatives including nephews Philip and Colin Taylor, kneeling right, great-great-great nephews and nieces Micah Edwards, Hannah and Caris Edwards along with Jonah and Isaac Walding, on the left



Florence, in uniform, after the Second World War

IT WAS three cheers for centenarian Florence Taylor who was the guest of honour at a family party to toast her milestone birthday.

She has been living in Colley Gate, Halesowen, for the past six years after moving to the Black Country from Reading. To mark her 100 years, many of her relatives travelled to visit her to celebrate the occasion which was complete with a special cake and a letter from the Queen.

She was born on August 20, 1913 in Reading where she lived in the same house for 94 years before moving to Two Gates House care home in Colley Gate in 2007 to be closer to her nephew Phillip.

During the Second World War, she served with the Women's Royal Naval Service, known as the Wrens, and was based in Aberdeen and Dunfermline. After moving south, she began working in the geography department at the University of Reading and later for the BBC's monitoring service.

She never married but Miss Taylor, who is also known as Florry, is very close to her three nephews and niece as well as her 15 great-nephews and nieces, 21 great-great-nephews and nieces and 23 great-great-great-nephews and nieces.

Many of her relatives joined her to celebrate her birthday and she said it had been 'lovely' to see everyone.

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Drive ban for father who drank

A FATHER of two was caught drink driving after he drove home to Stourbridge late at night from a funeral, a court heard.

Wayne Jones was more than twice the legal limit when police stopped him while driving a silver Ford Transit van. Dudley Magistrates Court heard police had received information Jones was over the limit.

A passing patrol car saw the van on Highgate Road, Holly Hall, Dudley, and he was stopped at Bushy Fields Road near to Russells Hall Hospital at 1.30am on July 23. Jones gave a positive test of 82 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, when the legal limit is 35. Police also found a small quantity of cannabis.

Jones, aged 42, of Bagley Street, pleaded guilty to drink driving and possession of a class B drug. He was fined £100 for drink driving and £100 for possession of drugs. He was ordered to pay £85 court costs and a £20 victim surcharge. Jones was banned from driving for 20 months.

Eight new staff at estate agents

A WEST Midlands estate agents, which has offices in Stourbridge, has taken on eight new staff to help it expand its services over coming months.

Marwood Homes Ltd, part of the John Shepherd Lettings Group, has made the appointments follow the business's recent rebranding.

Students celebrate a bumper crop of borough GCSE marks

STUDENTS and teachers in Dudley were celebrating achieving another bumper crop of GCSE results across the borough.

Nervous pupils rushed to schools and colleges last Thursday, ready to open their envelopes after weeks of tension following the end of their exams.

But there were concerns from some schools that altered grade boundaries had impacted on results and could risk students' chances of securing their favoured college places.

by Simon Stone

Among the schools which saw an upwards trend in A* to C results was Bishop Milner Catholic School, in Dudley, which achieved 74 per cent, up from 70 per cent last year. Kingswinford Academy which achieved 72 per cent, up from 70 per cent, and the Summerhill School, Kingswinford, which recorded 78 per cent up from 75 per cent.

Staff at The Dormston School, in Sedgley, which had recently been classed at inadequate by Ofsted inspectors, were pleased with an increase in the pass rates to 55 per cent, up from 36 per cent last year.

At Holly Hall Academy, in Dudley, staff declared their pride at results despite fierce concerns over grade boundaries that they say had resulted in 28 students missing out on a grade C in English.

Overall the school achieved 39 per cent grade A* to C including English and maths. But principal Graham Lloyd said a deci-

Joy for youngsters in best year ever



Windsor High pupils, from left, Charlotte Duerdon, Megan Chance, Shaun James, Daniel Bevan and Chadsley Atkins

THERE was much cheer among students at a Halesowen school, after it recorded its best ever results.

Pupils started arriving at Windsor High School, in Richmond Street, from 9.30am, last Thursday, as the tension mounted.

In total, 74 per cent of students got

five A* to C grades including maths and English, up 14 per cent from last year. In single subjects, 87 per cent of students achieved A* to C in English and 80 per cent in maths.

Head teacher Keith Sorrell was at the school congratulating pupils on their success. He said: "These are our

best set of results and a tribute to the hard work of everyone involved.

"My congratulations to all of the students and staff on such an outstanding set of results. When added to our excellent A-level results performance this has been a fantastic year for the school."

NEWS

in brief

Awards scheme call on buildings

A NATIONAL award recognising buildings which have made a difference to local people and communities is looking for nominations from the West Midlands.

The Civic Trust Awards, which launched in 1959, is one of the oldest award schemes in Europe.

From cafes and churches to housing and hospitals, the Civic Trust has rewarded more than 5,500 buildings and spaces.

Dudley's regeneration chief Councillor Judy Foster said: "I hope that local people see fit to nominate local projects."

All entries should be made online at www.civictrustawards.org.uk before September 11.

Park weekend of scarecrows

A HOST of scarecrows will be descending on a Black Country park – and everyone is invited to take along one of their own.

Staff at Haden Hill Park in Cradley Heath are holding a scarecrow weekend next month, and residents are asked to make their own for the weekend on September 14 and 15.

The event will run on both days from 11am to 5.30pm, and there will be live music, a barbecue, a birds of prey display, a climbing wall and line dancing.

Entries will be accepted until Friday September 6.

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NEWS FEATURE



READ this and weep. The disused Round Oak pub in Brierley Hill is a disgrace.

A building of some architectural merit due to its interesting Art Deco features, it now lies derelict and has become a target for arsonists since it closed more than 20 years ago.

Businessman Jon Thompson wants to spend £200,000 renovating this building so he can operate a home furnishing shop from the site, but says his plans are being thwarted by the 'impossible' demands by council officials.

Charging points for electric cars and parking for motorcyclists, not to mention showers and a changing room for people wanting to cycle to work, are among the wackier requests the council has made.

Mr Thompson has now been told that a decision should be made this week, so hopefully the matter will finally be put to bed.

But suppose Mr Thompson went along with all this nonsense. Are we to expect hoards of motorcyclists zipping through the streets of the Black Country with flat pack furniture strapped onto their backs? Probably not. Will there be a stampede of folk wanting to charge their electric cars while they browse the range of occasional chairs?

The explanation given by Councillor Miss Judy Foster, who had always considered to be a thoroughly good egg, is as depressing as it is familiar.

Maintain

"With regard to the electric car charging points and shower facilities for staff cycling to work, this is part of our ongoing work to promote more sustainable ways to travel to work," she says.

Of course it is. That sentence just sums up what is so wrong with local government today.

The role of the local council is not to influence how we get to work. It is not to tell us what we should eat. The role of the council is to maintain the roads, keep our streets tidy, and to empty the bins. Without nosing around to check we aren't putting the wrong sort of rubbish in them.

And when a business plans to spend £200,000 renovating an eyesore property, smartening up an important approach to a struggling town centre, and creating 10 jobs, the council should be rolling out the red carpet, not dishing out lectures on 'sustainable transport to work'.



Shuffling the pack in front of you



Pick a card out and Mark will be pick able to name it



Coins and other items are also used in Mark's tricks

Magician who aims to make his Mark

A present at the age of seven started Mark's passion for magic, as he explains to **CHARLOTTE LILLEY**

IT started with a Paul Daniels magic set at the age of seven and now 23 years later, Mark Willis is performing his own tricks as a part-time magician.

The 30-year-old estate agent from Dudley has been a fan of magic ever since his grandfather introduced him to it as a child.

Since then he has performed to hundreds of people at weddings and parties across the region. He says: "My grandfather gave me the magic set as a present and from that moment on I was hooked."

"As a child I would put on shows for my family and friends and I used to love seeing their reaction. I enjoy performing, and entertaining people and making them laugh, even if it's at my own expense.

Amazad

"These days I rarely go anywhere without a deck of cards. I perform at weddings, birthdays, clubs and private parties and it is great to see people look amazed and hear them say 'how does he do that?'"

Mr Willis, who works for Connells Estate Agents in Wolverhampton, juggles his performances around work and often practises on his friends and colleagues.

"My boss is a big fan of magic and whenever we have a work party, he asks me to bring some of my equipment along to entertain people," he says.

"There isn't an age limit on magic and I think it is becoming more and more popular, especially with people like TV magician of the moment, Dynamo, putting



Now choose one – Mark never travels anywhere without his pack of cards

it back in the spotlight. Sometimes I even get people ask me to perform some of his tricks and walk through walls or levitate.

"I tend to look up to magicians such as Houdini and Dai Vernon, who were able to captivate people's imaginations with their tricks.

"I read a lot of their material to get some ideas and I try to include some of their skills in my act."

Unlike Paul Daniels, you won't find any bunny rabbits hopping out of hats or a glamorous assistant resembling the lovely Debbie McGee, being sawed in half in Mr Willis' act.

Magic Mark, as he goes by when he is

performing, prefers to show off his tricks up close in front of people.

"I like tricks where you make something change hands or places. It really baffles people when they see it happen right before their eyes and they instantly want to know how it is done," he says, "but of course a good magician never reveals his tricks."

"My girlfriend would never put herself forward to be my assistant and she definitely wouldn't let me attempt to saw her in half. She is very supportive of me and she much prefers to take a back seat and watch rather than take part."

Mr Willis spends time working on

new tricks after work and during the weekends and says he wouldn't rule out a performance on Penn and Teller's TV show *Fool Us*.

The ITV magic show challenges magicians to perform in front of the American duo and if they can fool them with one of their tricks, they win a five-star trip to Las Vegas to perform as their opening act.

"I have considered going on Penn and Teller to see if I could fool them, although it looks really difficult because they are just so good at what they do," says Mr Willis.

"At the minute I am working on a new trick and I have a feeling it might puzzle them if I ever get the chance to perform it in front of them."

But even the greatest of magicians can sometimes get it wrong and Mr Willis admits he is no exception.

He says: "Sometimes you might perform a trick to a group of people and it does not go as well as you had hoped.

Mistakes

"People might see or realise how you did something but like anything in life, you learn from your mistakes, have a little laugh at yourself and move on and later you can figure out ways to improve."

So what's next in his box of tricks? Can we ever expect see him on a world stage performing his mind-bending tricks to thousands?

He says: "If I ever had the opportunity to become a full-time magician and if I could afford it, then I would take it."

"However, I enjoy performing at weddings and parties and I enjoy my job as an estate agent. I am lucky that my family and friends are so supportive of me and I am thankful that they let me practise my tricks on them."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

SENIOR police officers in Staffordshire were over the moon after their summer activities SPACE programme attracted nearly 22,000 children. Organisers said the project, aimed at improving police relations in the community, was an out-of-this-world success.

Hordes of West Midlands holidaymakers heading for the coast were left disappointed after the weathermen got the forecast badly wrong. Travellers were expecting glorious sunshine but were instead presented with grey skies and pouring rain.

THREE men were forced to make an emergency landing after their hot air balloon drifted perilously close to the M6 at Walsall. Pilot Phil Clarke and his two passengers escaped unharmed after he managed to steer the balloon into the grounds of Alumwell Comprehensive School.

1993...

FOUR Coseley households were hit by a blunder by Dudley Council planners who sent letters about a proposed supermarket to the wrong addresses. Planning chiefs sent letters to homes in Redwood Road by mistake, leaving residents of Winnall Close unaware of the development.

HIMLEY Cricket Club batsman Steve Small scored a 'match-winning' century with a difference to clinch his engagement to his girlfriend Nicola. Steve smashed 101 runs after his future father-in-law told him he had to score a century to win Nicola's hand in marriage.

FEATHERS flew at a Rowley Regis pub when a 'cock fight' was staged as part of a family fun day. But licensee Robin Hancock avoided falling 'fowl' of the law as he and his business partner did the fighting in 6ft wide inflatable costumes.

2003...

AN emergency meeting was held in Wolverhampton's Mander Centre to discuss ways to allay elderly people's fear of crime. The move followed the results of a survey which showed four out of 10 older people were too afraid to enter the city centre.

TWO brothers who ran a model shop in Dudley for nearly 44 years called it a day. Bill and Charles Dixon introduced generations of youngsters to the joys of model-making through their Ace Models store in the Fountain Arcade.

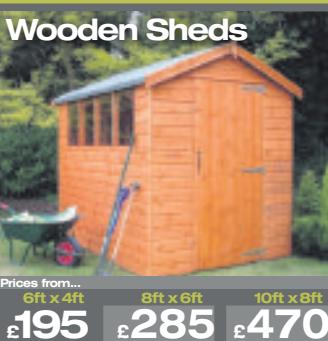
PERTON residents were warned to expect six months of chaos while a £1.1 million flood defence scheme was put in place. Severn Trent decided to expand the sewer systems in a bid to prevent the flooding that had blighted homes in the village for years.

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LETTERS

Fracking may open up possibilities

LET'S be honest, nobody will know the full effect of fracking until it's actually carried out in the UK.

We can't learn a great deal from the US, but reports of gas coming out of taps, aquifers polluted in other ways and earth tremors need to be heeded.

We should scrutinise all information/propaganda both pro and anti.

The US film, *Gasland* which purports to show the dire results of the process, shows gas coming from a kitchen tap resulting possibly it seems, not from fracking but from the homeowner's water well having been drilled into a pocket of naturally occurring methane.

We cannot have the inevitable New

Let's put PC idiocy in its place

AS a nation I think we should lighten up a bit.

BBC summariser John Inverdale caused a storm in June when he was said to have made an inappropriate comment about the Wimbledon ladies singles champion, but at the same time he was very much full of praise for her ability, but that side of his comments were ignored.

More recently we had some more commotion about UKIP Euro MP Godfrey Bloom referring to Bongo Bongo Land when attempting to make a point about how much we give away in foreign aid that got blown out of all proportion by the politically correct brigade.

Not surprisingly the BBC appear to be making sure women are not under represented on their front line workforces. We've even got women reading the football results now. Whatever next?

A P CUFF,
Grayling Road,
Stourbridge.

Letters to the Editor

Age Luddites telling us whether we should go for this possible mother load or not.

I do not think that the loonies presently setting up camp down South and going through the usual tree hugging rituals have anything to do with the discussion.

Similarly, the RSPB, whose members don't seem to mind having the local bird population chopped to pieces by flailing windmills have come out against the project.

This is something that should be tested scientifically and under extreme controls to see whether it might result in Armageddon or a new golden age for the discussion.

The Black Country is honeycombed with old coal, iron ore and limestone mining and yet we are still here, living, breathing and moaning as we do.

Furthermore, if we do go ahead, I hope our wise and canny leaders will ensure that the British Exchequer receives a healthy wad of cash and puts in place more rigorous controls on pricing so that we see the effect in our bills.

I would add that if these professional anti-everythings had been around and allowed to flourish a couple of hundred years ago, we might never have had the Industrial Revolution.

The Black Country is honeycombed with old coal, iron ore and limestone mining and yet we are still here, living, breathing and moaning as we do.

ALAN M ETHERIDGE,
Catholic Lane, Sedgley.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle
Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street,
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E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Ragwort ravaging the local landscape

IN RECENT years our countryside and urban areas have become a haven for ragwort. This long stem yellow daisy cluster is growing everywhere.

Highways and landowners do little to get rid of it and it is now seen growing in towns and cities. It is very toxic and can cause liver failure to animals who eat it dried.

Bees love the flowers as do other insects and we wonder if it gets into local honey supplies and even grain crops. It needs pulling and burning. There is a fine of £1,000 if landowners let it get out of hand but little is done and no action taken.

Over the years I have written to Wyre Forest Council and councillors but still little is done. It isn't just growing in Wyre Forest but is widespread in most counties.

Those without a job could help to keep the countryside free from this weed the future we will all be living in a weed bed.

M WOOLDRIDGE,
Bewdley.

Spanish set out their stall

THE sabre rattling by the Spanish Government over Gibraltar is of course a classic diversionary tactic to switch the attention of their populace away from the parlous state of the Spanish economy.

Given the importance of tourism to that economy, before engaging in any more inflammatory action, it would be well advised to reflect on the wisdom of alienating the millions of British tourists who visit Spain each year.

KEITH DAVIS
Holly Close, Kinver.

Care praise

On a recent appointment at Corbett Hospital, my mother had the misfortune to have a nasty fall outside. Help and assistance was at hand immediately. I was told to carry on to my appointment and was constantly informed of my mother's condition and that she was being attended by a paramedic. Thank you to all concerned. God bless you all.

S BRADLEY,
Sedgley.

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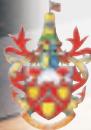
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NEWS

Bravery award for dog after fall



Lynda Jennings, of Halesowen, at the dog show with Noah, the pup that fell from the balcony of a block of flats

Injured pup's vet bills top £1,800

A PUPPY which fell 20ft from the balcony of a block of flats, is being cared for by members of a welfare charity in Halesowen, following his star showing at a fundraising dog show.

Young Noah the Staffordshire bull terrier is now being wheeled around in his own makeshift buggy after being left unable to walk following the ordeal.

He has so far endured two operations to plate and pin his broken hind leg which have cost Black Country animal charity Wild Acres around £1,800 in vet bills. But the loveable pup was one of the stars of an annual fun dog show held in Great Barr – even

scoping an award for his bravery. Hundreds of dogs of all shapes and sizes lined up for the Paws in the Park event at Red House Park organised by the park's friends group and dogs charity K9 Search UK. But it was the tale of Noah's battle back to health that pulled at the heartstrings of judges who named him best rescue dog at the show.

Wild Acres volunteer Lynda Jennings, aged 36, said Noah had been discovered lying on the floor outside a tower block in Perry Barr, Birmingham, by passing ambulance paramedics four weeks ago.

The puppy, thought to be around eight months old, was taken to Manor Vets, in Halesowen, to be cared for by staff. He had snapped the fibula bone in his back right leg and vets faced the agonising decision whether to put him down.

But the vets practice works with Wild Acres to rehome pets and when the volunteers heard about Noah's predicament they helped stump up the cash to pay for the operations.

He has been living with Lynda at her home in Halesowen while he recuperates but even she says he faces an uncertain future. "He has a lovely temperament and he is a fantastic dog who just wants to kiss you all the time," said the mother of two.

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NEWS

Tunnels scheme to mark start of tourist complex

Pair revved up for future



Steve and Sue Shaw who have set up Premier Motorcycles and Scooters

A COUPLE have worked full throttle business of their own. The couple opened Premier Motorcycles and Scooters Ltd, at Prospect Row, Dudley, recently.

Mrs Shaw said: "Steve has loved motorbikes since he was 16 so we decided to launch our own business. "It has been a lot of hard work but we are very proud."

PLANS to turn historic tunnels into a museum are only the first phase of a much bigger scheme to transform the site into a major tourist hub, it has been revealed.

Quercus Illex SA, which owns Drakelow Tunnels between Kinver and Wolverley, has submitted proposals for the museum to Wyre Forest District Council.

But an agent for the company today said the scheme was only intended to be 'phase one' of planned improvements for the site.

Owners also plan to create a nature walk giving greater access to a listed monument and views over the escarpment where the tunnels are built.

Houses

The Baxter Monument is an obelisk built in the mid-19th century by William Hancock in honour of 17th century preacher Richard Baxter.

There are also plans to eventually restore a series of rock houses at the site which are close to the tunnel entrances. Two groups of houses are on the site - nine to the east on two levels which are almost intact along with some shallow overgrown cave houses which extend down the hillside to the west.

Agent for the owners Sarah Gauntlett Shea said the aim was to get the museum set up and generating money before embarking on other improvements.

"The museum represents phase one of what my client hopes to do with this historically very important site," she said.

"Eventually it is hoped work will take place at the rock houses as well to restore them. Obviously all of the plans are still in their early stages at the moment."

The tunnels were excavated during the Second World War and used to manufacture machinery to be used in the conflict.

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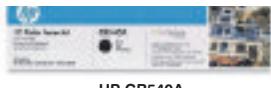
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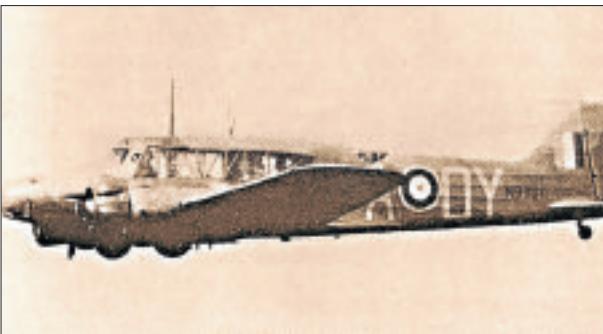
MEMORY LANE



The Air Scouts Anson, a feature of the airfield for many years



An Air Scout experiencing a cockpit at a recent event



An Anson serving at Halfpenny Green during the War

Anson aircraft making a return to Halfpenny

by Alec Brew

IN 1935 the famous Avro Aircraft company flew the prototype of a two-seat bomber it called the Anson.

Amazingly they went on to make around 11,000 of them, and it was still in RAF service in 1968, and the airfield with the longest association with the Avro Anson was Halfpenny Green.

The Anson had a short career as a bomber and was then pressed into service as a trainer and a light transport.

RAF Halfpenny Green was opened in 1941 and housed No.3 Air Observer (Navigators) School, which was very soon equipped with 66 Avro Ansons, which were one of the most common sights in the skies around the Black Country.

The Station closed at the end

of the War, but it was reopened as a training base in 1950 at the start of the Korean War, and the Ansons returned.

In 1953 it closed once again, but Halfpenny Green had not seen the last of the Avro Anson.

The airfield reopened for civil flying in 1961, and in 1963 the Halfpenny Green Air Scouts moved into one of the old RAF huts.

Proudly

They soon acquired an Avro Anson, as a training aid, and they proudly looked after it for many years, and in January 1969 it was joined by several more.

The Anson was finally retired as a light transport by the RAF in 1968, and a local company called Tipper Air Transport acquired

eight of them, in the hope of selling them on to the civil market.

They were parked at Halfpenny Green for some time awaiting a buyer.

Sadly a buyer never appeared and the Ansons went for scrap, and soon afterwards the Air Scouts lost theirs, donating it to the Midland Air Museum, after it suffered vandalism.

Now an Anson is returning to Halfpenny Green, or at least the cockpit of one.

One of the features of the Autumn Wings & Wheels Fly-in on September 1 will be CockpitsWest 2013, when private collectors bring along their aircraft cockpits for people to enjoy.

One of them will be an Avro Anson, returning a famous aircraft to one of its most famous bases.



A German Phantom cockpit at CockpitsWest 2012



One of the retired RAF Ansons awaiting a buyer in the 1970s



One of the Tipper Air Transport Ansons

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NEWS

Arson-hit youth hub is likely to be demolished

Golden days celebrated



Tony and Rita Davies celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary

A GOLDEN couple have celebrated 50 years of married bliss with their family.

Rita and Tony Davies, of Pensnett, were 15 and 17 when they caught each other's eye at the Round Oaks Steelworks Club in Brierley Hill.

"We got talking and arranged to go out the following evening," said Mrs Davies, now aged 66.

And sparks flew for the couple who were later married at Dudley Register Office on August 8 1963.

They have three sons – Martyn, Brett and Lee – as well as six grand-daughters and a grandson. The couple also have a great-grand-daughter.



The wedding day

A YOUTH hub which was damaged during an arson attack at a Dudley charity will have to be demolished, devastated bosses have said.

Managers at St Thomas's Network in Kates Hill have been left shattered by the blaze which caused thousands of pounds of damage.

The youth building at the community centre in Beechwood Road was gutted by the fire two weeks ago and bosses say it is beyond repair and will have to be knocked down. They have also renewed their appeal for firms and individuals to help provide CCTV cameras.

These would be used to help protect the site from further attacks. The charity has been able to use other rooms at its base so it could continue to provide its youth activities during the summer holidays.

Security

Jennifer Gregory, from the charity's senior management team, said: "Because of the extent of the damage, the building will have to be knocked down.

"We are carrying on with our youth provision using different rooms. We are still looking for anyone who can help with security."

The youth building had housed new equipment and table tennis tables for teenagers to use during weekly events.

Insurance assessors will analyse the damage. It is thought to have been caused after vandals broke in through a window.

Steve Walther, chairman of the board of trustees at St Thomas' Network, said the charity group provided "a lifeline" for people who were living in what is one of the Dudley borough's most deprived areas.

Mr Walther said he hoped Dudley Council might be able to offer advice and support over what the organisation can do to aid its youth operation in the meantime.

Anyone who is able to help can contact 01384 818990.

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Final phase of sports and housing scheme to include learning centre

PLANS for the final phase of a £2 million sports and housing scheme in Halesowen, which includes a new playing field and learning centre, have been lodged.

Developer St Modwen has completed work on a new pavilion for Coombs Wood Cricket Club and is putting the finishing touches to new homes in Coombs Road.

Now it wants to begin work on the third stage of the project which will include a new grass sports pitch, multi-

by Heather Large

use games area and an outdoor classroom at Olive Hill Primary School. Bosses say the scheme will provide 'much needed play and recreational and learning facilities' for the pupils.

Lessons

The sports pitch will measure 177ft by 88ft and there also be a hard-surfaced games area.

An early years learning centre will be created which will also have a climbing frame area.

The 'forest school' will allow pupils to have lessons outside and learn more about the plants and wildlife on the nearby Coombeswood Green Wedge.

This outdoor area and the sports pitches could be made available for use by visiting schools or local clubs.

The developer's planning application says: "The proposals are for new outdoor playing and learning facilities for the school."

The school has recently increased in size following the amalgamation with Holt Farm School and has recently constructed new extensions to the teaching

area and as such, the external 'playing area' is under severe pressure and new facilities are urgently needed."

Coombs Wood Cricket Club moved into its new £1m pavilion earlier this year.

It was built on a five-acre site off Stewarts Road, on the Coombeswood Green Wedge, and features meeting rooms, a bar, kitchen and changing rooms.

Meanwhile outside there is a pitch, some practice nets and a bowling green.

The club had outgrown its former clubhouse in Coombs Road but was unable to invest in the site to update facilities due to a short lease.

MP issues call over speed of broadband

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has criticised Government plans for superfast broadband, he says will leave large parts of Dudley out. Smethwick, West Bromwich, Halesowen, Black Heath and Stone Cross are also to miss out on speed upgrades under the scheme.

The project will see the superfast broadband delivered to 95 per cent of the country.

Mr Austin has written to Business Secretary Vince Cable, urging him to ensure that Black Country families and businesses are not missed.

He said: "Constituents got in touch with me after being told by broadband companies that Dudley wouldn't be seeing superfast broadband for years.

"The Government promised to bring higher speeds to 95 per cent of the country, and local businesses need to be able to operate at the same speed as those elsewhere, but they're not going to hit that target here in the Black Country."



MP Ian Austin

Sue says adios for glass mission



Talented glass artist Sue Parry at the Ruskin Glass Centre in Amblecote who is off to Mexico for four

A GLASS artist is saying 'adios' to the Black Country to travel to Mexico for a four-month creative sabbatical.

Sue Parry, from Stourbridge, will be working with artists in Guanajuato, which is 7,000ft up in the Sierra Madre Mountains and described as cultural and artistic centre.

She will be setting off on her trip in October and has organised a summer sale at her studio based at the Ruskin Glass Centre in Amblecote to help fund her travels.

Her speciality is sand-casting where molten glass is poured into a mould and takes up colours and textures and can then actually be handled at 1,200°C with heat-resistant gloves to be manipulated into exotic shapes.

She said: "The vibrancy of the colours, the costumes and the art in Mexico will inspire a whole new exciting collection in 2014 that I will be creating in my local studio."

"I am going to be working with ceramic artists and do some painting. It will be good to have a break from my studio and create a new body of work," she added.

She will be flying to Los Angeles and then driving the 2,000 miles to Guanajuato.

Sue, aged 50, moved from Windsor to Stourbridge in 2003, and studied at The National Glass Centre in Brierley Hill, after abandoning a high-flying job as a treasury analyst at Honda to start a completely new career in glass-making.

Courses are on the climb at leisure site

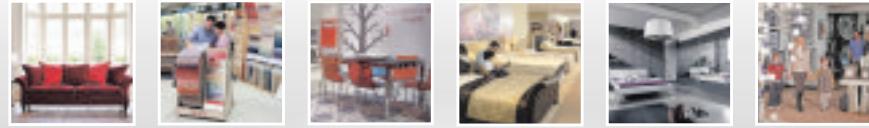
A LEISURE centre is offering new climbing courses starting next month. Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge will run the sessions on their great indoor climbing wall.

Beginners and experienced climbers can get training, with a chance to gain the National Indoor Climbing Award Scheme, which accredits achievements in climbing, as well as offering development in the sport.

Junior classes for those aged between nine and 15 are between 6.45pm and 7.45pm, and adult classes for those 16 and over are from 7.45pm to 8.45pm. The cost for one term is £72.80 for junior classes, and £87.10 for adults.

The courses start on September 11 and run for 13 weeks. Participants will need their own climbing shoes but essential equipment is provided. Call 01384 812800.

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Free trips on offer along the canal in group event

THERE will be an opportunity for people from Old Hill and Cradley Heath to mess about on the water this weekend.

Free trips are being offered for families down the Dudley No 2 Canal in Halesowen.

Charity Groundwork West Midlands is holding a fun day at Chancel Way in Halesowen on Saturday, between 10am and 3pm which will include face painting, balloon modelling and a mini zoo.

The fun day is being held in conjunction with the Coombeswood Canal Trust to celebrate recent work Groundwork West Midlands have been doing on behalf of the Dudley Canal Trust to improve the local canal environment as part of the Big Lottery's Changing Spaces Fund.

Chris Leech, project co-ordinator for Groundwork West Midlands said: "We have been working with Dudley Canal Trust to deliver many improvements along the canal, and as a result it is now good to see local people enjoying the peaceful quality environment."

As part of the improvements local artist Luke Perry was also commissioned to install 24 pieces of art along the towpaths. The canal improvements also form part of the Making Tomorrow Different challenge set by Groundwork which aims to improve open spaces equivalent to 20 Olympic Parks by the time of the next games in Rio.

The boat trips are expected to last about one hour and free refreshments will be provided for everyone on board. To book boat trip places contact Chris Leech on 0121 530 5525.

"My heartfelt thanks go to all who have made today, and the

Celebrations as group marks 10th year helping youngsters in sport

VOLUNTEERS for a charity which helps disabled children in Cradley Heath have been celebrating the organisation's 10th birthday.

The milestone was reached by Sandwell Parents for Disabled Children which gets disabled youngsters based throughout the borough, including Old Hill and Rowley Regis, involved in all sorts of sporting and leisure activities.

by Simon Stone

Parents and youngsters celebrated the big birthday with a range of attractions on offer during a family fun day which took place on August 15.

Organisers hailed The Tipton Sports Academy event a 'huge success', as it was attended by more than 200 people, with Sandwell's deputy mayor and Rowley Councillor Barbara Price there as special guest alongside the deputy consort Councillor Robert Price.

Fantastic

Diane Rai, Manager of SPDC said: "The day was a huge success, summing up SPDC's aim of families having fun together."

"We all had a fantastic day."

"It is a huge achievement for SPDC to have reached its 10th anniversary and I am confident that given the amount of support for the organisation we can continue to go from strength to strength."

"My heartfelt thanks go to all who have made today, and the

last 10 years, a huge success." Sandwell Leisure Trust's Sports development officer Mandy Williams, said: "There was a great turnout to the event with children enjoying the wide variety of activities that were available."

"We really enjoyed working with the charity and look forward to working with them again on some exciting new projects that are already being planned."

SPDC is a local charity supporting disabled children and young people to get involved in play, leisure and sporting activities and was started in 2003 by a committed group of parents.

Since then the charity has gone from strength to strength and now provides a huge range of activities enjoyed by over 200 disabled children and their families.

For more information visit Sandwell Parents for Disabled Children's website www.spdc.org or call 0121 544 8880.



Sandra Evans, Brenda and Cliff Enever and, at the front, Antoon Jansen in costume

US Civil War targeted with House event

VISITORS to Haden Hill House in Cradley Heath were given a glimpse of life on the battlefield during the American Civil War.

Members of The Anglo-Boer War Staffords re-enactment group were on hand to help people step back in time at the weekend.

There were lively displays including a mock battle for crowds to watch. And there were also demonstrations in rifle firing and marching.

The group uses blank-firing weapons authentic to the period and pyrotechnic displays during battle re-enactments to make them as realistic as possible. The re-enactment group has carried out demonstrations in Sandwell before but it's the first time they have focused on the American Civil War.

It is one of a number of events taking place at the attraction during the summer months. There will be Proms in the Park on September 8 between 3pm and 8pm.

It will include music from the Martinique Jazz Band, easy listening-songs with Ian Casey during the afternoon and early evening, followed by rousing tunes from Halesowen Brass Band.

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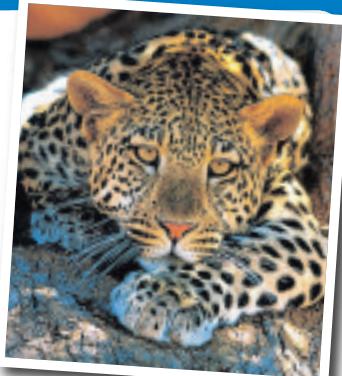
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NEWS

Funeral workers' relief at return of van



John Cumiskey, owner of Wombourne Funeral Services, celebrates getting his van back, with happy workers members Matthew Oliver, Michael Oliver, Kieran Bates and Tony Burt after it was stolen from a churchyard

A FUNERAL services van which was stolen from a Wombourne churchyard while workers were setting up a grave-stone has now been returned to its owners.

The Bedford pick-up truck belonging to Wombourne & Kinver Memorials was taken in broad daylight from the front of St Benedicts Biscop

Church in School Road. It was discovered days later abandoned on a street in Sedgley.

Bosses at the firm, which has been running for around 30 years, said they were 'delighted' to now have it back.

John Cumiskey, who runs the company with his father John and mother Winifred, said: "We're really

pleased to have it back, especially my dad because it was one of his favourites."

The company has a fleet of 11 trucks but Mr Cumiskey said the vehicle was vital for transporting equipment to churchyards and cemeteries.

Bosses believe it was stolen for the Hiab lifting arm.

Club site homes under way

WORK has started to build four homes on a former war memorial club site in Stourbridge – bringing to an end years of campaigning by residents to get the land reused.

The long-disused Stourbridge War Memorial Club building was demolished in May and plans for the new houses approved.

And construction has now started at the site, in Amblecote High Street, with the new buildings already starting to take shape.

The project is being carried out by

Smethwick firm Bains Builders Ltd. Residents have called for the site to be redeveloped since the war memorial club closed in 2002.

It quickly became a magnet for vandalism and anti-social behaviour suffering fire damage and becoming dilapidated through disuse.

Councillor Pat Martin, said: "I think this development is the best possible use for this site as it will not add too much traffic to what is already a very busy road. Previous applications have been for developments such as entertainment venues which would have caused a traffic nightmare."

"With this development there will be only limited vehicles exiting and entering the site during the day. It is good to see this site finally being developed after so long and I believe it will be an improvement for the area."

The war memorial club building was in a terrible condition for a very long time and simply did not give the right impression of the area.

"It is a shame the club was lost but there was no longer anything which could have been done with the building."

Dudley Council approved plans for the houses in June.

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Mon.30th Sept. 19.00-21.00 10 wks. £52.60 #

COMPUTING SKILLS: All courses 3 wks £22.30 #.

THE BASICS:

Tues 17th Sept. 14.30-16.30, Tues 17th Sept 19.00-21.00,

Tues 5th Nov. 14.30-16.30 OR Tues 5th Nov. 19.00-21.00

INTERNET+ E MAIL: Tues 8th Oct. 14.30-16.30, Tues 8th Nov.

19.00-21.00, Tues 26th Nov. 14.30-16.30 OR Tues 26th Nov.

19.00-21.00

NEW KEYBOARD SKILLS WORD PROCESSING:

Tues 17th Sept. 12.00-14.00

NEW PRODUCING POSTERS, LEAFLETS AND CARDS:

Tues 8th Oct. 12.00-14.00

NEW SIMPLE SPREADSHEETS: Tues 5th Nov 12.00-14.00

BEGINNERS GUIDE APPLE MAC COMPUTERS

Mon 4th Nov. 19.00-20.30. 6 wks. £44.50 #

★ GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR ANDROID SMARTPHONE

Tues 24th Sept. 12.00-14.00, Tues 12th Nov. 12.00-14.00 OR Tues 19th Nov. 19.00-21.00. All 5 wks £37.10 #

BUYING AND SELLING ON E-BAY

Tues 17th Sept. 19.00-21.00, Wed 2nd Oct. 9.30-11.30,

Tues 15th Oct. 19.00-21.00. OR. Wed 6th Nov. 9.30-11.30.

All 4 wks. £29.70. #

AN INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY HISTORY

Mon 24th Sept. 14.30-16.30 5 wks. £42.10 # (£10)

AN INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL IMAGING USING PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS

Mon 16th Sept. 9.30-11.30 OR

Tues 5th Nov. 9.30-11.30. Both 6 wks. £44.50 #

CONTINUING DIGITAL IMAGING: PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS

Mon 4th Nov. 9.30-11.30. 6 wks. £44.50 #

CREATE YOUR OWN WEBSITE Wed 23rd Oct. 14.30-16.30 OR Thurs 24th Oct. 19.00-21.00. Both 7 wks. £51.90

FITNESS YOGA @ Oakfield Short'N'Sweet

Fri 20th Sept. 11.15-12.15. 6 wks. £24.70 #

FITNESS GLIDING @ Oakfield Short'N'Sweet

Fri 8th Nov. 11.15-12.15. 6 wks. £24.70 #

PILATES

Beginners: Thurs 19th Sept. 18.00-19.00, 12 wks. £37.10 #

Beg @ Oakfield: Fri 20th Sept. 10.00-11.00, 12 wks. £44.50 #

Improvers: Tues 17th Sept. 19.00-20.00, 12 wks. £37.10

Improvers: Wed 18th Sept. 18.30-19.30, 12 wks. £37.10

Improvers: Thurs 19th Sept. 19.05-20.05, 12 wks. £37.10

Improvers: Thurs 19th Sept. 20.10-21.10, 12 wks. £37.10

LEGS, BUMS & TUMS

Tues 17th Sept.. 20.05-21.05, 12 wks. £37.10

BALLROOM and LATIN AMERICAN DANCING

All classes start Mon 16th Sept. for 12 wks. Beginners 18:45-19.45. £40.20. Improvers/ Intermediates 19.45-21.00. £50.30

ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS: Begin Mon 16th Sept. for 12 wks. All cost £37.10. Beginners: 19.00-19.45. Improvers: 19.45-20.30. Intermediates: 20.30-21.15

PRIVATE SWIMMING LESSONS

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What's New

4

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★ FRENCH Free Taster sessions: ★

PLAY THE GUITAR

Intermediates: Mon.16th Sept. 19.00-21.00 12 wks. £63.10 #

Improvers: Tues.17th Sept. 19.00-21.00 12 wks. £63.10 #

NEW Beginners : Thurs.19th Sept. 20.00-21.00 12 wks. £44.50 #

Cont. Beginners: Thurs.19th Sept. 19.00-20.00 12 wks. £44.50 #

MEDITATION Thurs 3rd Oct. OR Thurs 7th Nov. 19.00-20.30. Both 4 wks. £22.30 # Short'N'Sweet

BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT: IT IS ALL ABOUT YOU

Mon 16th Sept. 14.30-16.30, Thurs 19th Sept 19.00-21.00 OR

Thurs 10th Oct. 19.00-21.00 OR Thurs 7th Nov. 19.00-21.00.

All 3 wks. £22.30 # Short'N'Sweet

NEW HAIR STYLING FOR BEGINNERS Short'N'Sweet

Thurs 10th Oct. OR Thurs 7th Nov.

Both 14.30-16.30 3 wks. £22.30 #

NEW MAKE UP FOR BEGINNERS Short'N'Sweet

Thurs 19th Sept. OR Thurs 28th Nov.

Both 14.30-16.30 3 wks. £22.30 #

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING FOR BEGINNERS

Mon 7th Oct.14.30-16.30. 3 wks. £22.30 # Short'N'Sweet

DRAWING FOR BEGINNERS Short'N'Sweet

Mon 11th Nov. 14.30-16.30. 3 wks. £22.30 #

PAINTING AND DRAWING suitable for all levels

Tues 17th Sept. 19.00 - 21.00, 12 wks. £63.10 #

Wed 18th Sept. 9.30 - 11.30, 12 wks. £63.10 #

Thurs 19th Sept. 10.00 - 12.00, 12 wks. £63.10 #

Thurs 19th Sept. 13.30 - 15.30, 12 wks. £63.10 #

FLORAL ARTS: All 3 wks. £28.30 # (£11.00)

HAPPY HOUSEPLANTS: Tues 17th Sept. 14.30-16.30

BASIC BRIDAL DISPLAY: Tues 8th Oct. 14.30-16.30

HEADRESS + HAIR DECORATIONS: Tues 5th Nov. 14.30-16.30

BASIC POSY: Tues 26th Nov. 14.30-16.30 Short'N'Sweet

LEARN TO SCULPT IN STONE Thurs 7th Nov. 19.00 - 21.00 6 wks. £49.40

CANAL ART: ROSES AND CASTLES Tues. 5th Nov. 12.00-14.00 OR Mon 25th Nov. 19.00-21.00

Both 3 wks. £22.30 # Short'N'Sweet

JEWELLERY MAKING Mon 4th Nov. 19.00-21.00

OR Tues 26th Nov. 12.00-14.00 Both 3 wks. £22.30 #

FACE PAINTING AND GLITTER TATTOOS Mon 16th Sept. OR Mon 4th Nov.

Both 19.00-21.00. 6 wks. £37.60 # (£11)

SEWING MADE SIMPLE Thurs 19th Sept. 18.00-20.00. OR

Thurs 7th Nov. 18.00-20.00. 6 wks £31.60 #

PATCHWORK suitable for all levels.

Tues 17th Sept. 19.00-21.00. 6 wks. £31.60 # OR

Wed.18th Sept. 14.30-16.30. 12 wks. £63.10 #

UPHOLSTERY suitable for all levels

Mon 16th Sept. 19.00-21.00. 6 wks. £31.60 # OR

Wed.18th Sept. 12.00-14.00 12 wks. £63.10 #

NEEDLE FELT Tues 5th Nov. 9.30-11.30 OR

Thurs 7th Nov. 19.00-21.00, 6 wks. £31.60.

THE SMALL PRINT

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Reduced Fees: Where you see this # sign the course is supported by The Skills Funding Agency. If you are in receipt of certain benefits fees are reduced to a registration fee of £5.00.

September courses: May be subject to availability. When you call we will either register your interest. OR if places are available confirm your booking and take payment.

What is Short'N'Sweet? An introductory taster course of 6 hrs in a small group.

Where you see this sign basic computer and internet skills are required.

Holiday Dates: Learning4Life is closed from Fri 20th Dec. 2013 to Sun. 5th Jan. 2014 limited opening from 28th Oct -1st Nov. 13

This programme is subject to change: particularly if we are unable to recruit minimum class numbers.



★ FRENCH Free Taster sessions: ★

NEWS

Runner of 27 races in claims for disability

A BENEFITS cheat claimed he was unable to walk more than 15 yards without a rest – only to be caught on film crossing the finishing line of a half marathon.

When investigators started probing claimant Noel Sanders they discovered he had run in 27 races in three years – all at least 10km long – despite claiming he was barely able to walk a few yards and needed support to help him stand.

The 55-year-old from Brierley Hill, Dudley, told medics he struggled with simple daily tasks such as cutting up food, getting up in the morning and washing himself.

He described taking a number of prescription drugs to help with blood pressure, ease his pain and help him with depression.

But unbeknown to the authorities Sanders had joined a running club in the Black Country and was going on regular training runs. Sanders, who is now unemployed but recently worked as an administration assistant, had been secretary of Stourbridge Running Club for two years.

In total Sanders claimed £12,290 in disability living allowance and £5,173 in Jobseeker's Allowance between September 19, 2009, and January 28 this year. Sanders, of High Street, Brockmoor, pleaded guilty to two charges of dishonesty failing to notify the Department for Work and Pensions of a change in the circumstance affecting his benefit entitlement.

He was given a 12-week suspended prison sentence for six months to run concurrently on both charges during a hearing at Dudley Magistrates' Court. Sanders will also be supervised by the probation service. He will also have to pay £100 court costs.

Son's tribute to D-Day landings war veteran who died of cancer

Melanie tops class for attendance

A GIRL from Coseley who was struck down by meningitis as a baby has proved her full recovery after achieving 100 per cent attendance over seven years at primary school.

Melanie O'Neill, aged 11, was diagnosed with the disease aged just three months old.

Her parents Andy and Alison feared they might lose her and they were also concerned over possible side-effects following her survival.

Academy

But the young girl made a full recovery and since joining Wallbrook Primary School, in Bradleys Lane, Coseley, has not missed a day of class.

As a reward, the school has given her tickets to see Sleeping Beauty starring Joe Pasquale at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. She joins RSA Academy in Tipton next month.

Mr O'Neill, aged 55, of Julie Croft, Coseley, said: "We're so proud of her. Considering what she went through as a child it is quite incredible her attendance levels at the school are so good."



Melanie O'Neill, of Wallbrook Primary, who has attended for seven years without absence

TRIBUTES have been paid to a war veteran who was awarded medals for his part in the D-Day landings in Normandy. James Pound, was in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and was called up during the Second World War, becoming one of the first soldiers to land on the beaches of Normandy in June 1944.

His son, also called James, of Cornwall Road, Stourbridge paid tribute to his 'honest' and 'hard-working' father, who was given six service medals and was one of the founding members of the Normandy Veterans Association in Walsall.

The father of three, who was diagnosed with prostate cancer earlier this year, was also the standard bearer for more than 20 years.

The 87-year-old, who had lived at Marshall Close and also worked for Aldridge-based firm S Jones Containers for 30 years.

Around 200 people, including Second World War veterans, attended his funeral service.

Mr Pound Jnr, aged 60, said: "In Normandy, he was shot and wounded on July 8, 1944 and he was shipped back to England.

"Whilst in hospital he had 100 pieces of shrapnel removed from his body but some pieces remained in him until he died."

Terrible

Mr Pound, who grew up in Aston, Birmingham, and moved to Aldridge 55 years ago, returned to the Armed Forces in November 1944 and served in Germany, Egypt and Palestine before being discharged in 1947.

His son added: "My father was one of the first to land in Normandy. He used to say it was hard and terrible. His mates were dying around him. I am proud that he fought for this country and it was touching to see so many people at his funeral.

"I didn't realise how much my father was liked. He was straightforward and



D-Day veteran James Pound, who died, 87

honest. He was hard working.

"He always put food on the table for us."

Mr Pound also leaves behind his daughter Carol, 50, and son Desmond, 55.

He became a widower around 20 years ago when his wife Doreen died, aged 60.

star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks

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Theatre Showstopper from £189.95

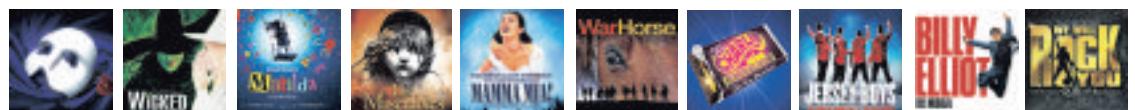
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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to shropshirestar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

COMMERCIAL FEATURE



Samsung experience: Digital and SMART technologies training is a growing industry area



Legal eagle – an understanding of the principles of law can lead to many career opportunities

Academy is model way to forge ahead

JUST collected your GCSEs and interested in building on your practical and academic skills while gaining lots of professional experience? Then make your way over to Kidderminster Academy.

School leavers can enrol now on a range of full-time Level 2 and Level 3 courses that will help them go on to employment, training and further study.

Courses at the Weavers Wharf-based building include hospitality and culinary arts, law and legal, fashion, retail and visual merchandising, digital and games technology as well as apps design and programming.

Director at the Academy, Jane Smith, said: "Hundreds of new students will be joining us at the Piano Building in September and we are very much looking forward to helping them achieve their potential through the learning opportunities we provide and the facilities available.

"Through the relationships we've developed with local organisations over the last 12 months, we'll have plenty of unique and challenging projects and activities that our learners can be involved in."

OPEN FOR ENROLMENT

"These will really make a difference to their future learning progress and employability."

One of the Academy's major collaborative projects last year was a New Look fashion show organised by students, Goldie Corns and Kira Jackman.

The fashion and retail students showcased a stunning range of clothes and accessories on the Academy's catwalk which were expertly modelled by staff from New Look, Kidderminster.

Brilliant

"I saw the event as a major project that combined styling and marketing," explained Goldie, who took up a part-time sales advisor position at New Look after completing a placement there. "Around 100 people came to the show which was brilliant."

"Studying at the Academy and being at New Look has given me a better understanding of the ways a business can maintain good customer relationships. Working on the fashion show led to me being able to use a lot of these principles."

"I like creating different looks and finding outfits to suit a person's body shape, so the fashion show was a great

experience," added Kira. "I'm keen to go into styling after I've finished my course because I want to encourage high street shops to embrace more individual fashion tastes."

"The fashion labs at the Academy are great – very forward thinking. There's great space to use for photography."

"Having our own catwalk also gives us the chance to complete the entire fashion making process from start to finish."

A number of part-time courses are also available at the Academy for adult learners wishing to progress in the workplace or retrain for a new career.

Adult courses include pharmaceutical science, electrical and electronic engineering and servicing, along with bookkeeping, legal secretaries and business administration.

For those that want to brush up on their literacy and numeracy skills, Functional English and Maths courses will help improve career prospects.

For further information about courses at the Academy at Kidderminster telephone 0845 155 0101, email Kiddacad@bmetc.ac.uk or visit www.kidderminsteracademy.co.uk



Catwalk queens – Goldie Corns and Kira Jackman (front right) organised a successful fashion show

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Tue 27 - Thu 29 August	10.00am - 8.00pm
Fri 30 August	10.00am - 4.00pm
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Mon 2 - Thu 5 September	10.00am - 8.00pm
Fri 6 September	10.00am - 4.00pm
Sat 7 September	10.00am - 1.00pm
Mon 9 - Thu 12 September	12.00noon - 7.00pm
Fri 13 September	10.00am - 4.00pm
Sat 14 September	10.00am - 1.00pm
Mon 16 - Thu 19 September	12.00noon - 7.00pm
Fri 20 September	10.00am - 4.00pm
Sat 21 September	10.00am - 1.00pm



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NEWS

Heroes tackle walk for charity



Family and friends of Stefan Halloran take part in a 21-mile charity walk from West Bromwich to Bewdley

Dying man's wishes honoured

A HEARTBROKEN widow is delivering the dying wish of her husband by raising thousands more pounds for charity – with the help of dozens of family members who completed a 21-mile charity walk.

Laura Halloran organised the walk by 100 people from The Coach and Horses pub in West Bromwich to the Black Boy Hotel in Bewdley.

It followed the death of her husband Stefan, who, aged just 29, lost a third battle against cancer in May.

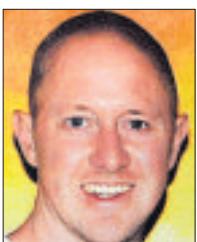
Mr Halloran had beat off the cancer twice since a brain tumour was found in his head in 2007 – but in April two returned, and although one was removed, he died from bleeding on the brain. Before he died, he

raised £14,000 for Brain Tumour UK, and on his death bed he asked his wife to continue the family efforts in giving cash to the charity.

Mrs Halloran met his request and organised the walk, which included the couple's son Jake, aged three, who walked from West Bromwich to Dudley Castle as part of the challenge.

He dressed as Ironman in memory of his father, who he nicknamed the hero because he would bounce back from the tumours found on his brain.

Mrs Halloran said: "It was a great effort by the team – they set off at 8.30am and arrived in Bewdley before 8pm, I'm proud of them all."



Brave Stefan Halloran

star extra TRAVEL

VIETNAM and Cambodia

The beautiful country of Vietnam is a mosaic of mist-shrouded mountains, vibrant green forests, a patch-work of rice paddies and pristine white beaches, whilst its villages and cities are custodians of the culture and monuments of a unique 2,000 year old civilisation.

In the past few years Vietnam has opened its doors to the world and much has changed. Today, in one of the world's last communist countries, the motorcycles and western dress of the youth happily co-exist with orange-clad Buddhist monks and political posters from a different era.

On this 16-day tour you will visit Hue, one of the country's most beautiful small towns and the former imperial capital. Here you will be able to see the amazing Citadel and its imperial Forbidden City, as well as the magnificent seven-storied Thien Mu pagoda, a working Buddhist shrine.

Contorted by years of erosion, explore the staggeringly beautiful rock formations of Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site from on board a converted Chinese junk. Then in Saigon you will be taken on a visit to the Cu Chi tunnels, a complex underground network which provided a base for the Vietcong from which to attack US forces. You will see the tunnels themselves and examples of the many mantraps and spike pits which protected them.

The overwhelming image of Vietnam is that of a country blessed with extraordinary beauty and the friendly Vietnamese always courteous and proud to show off their wonderful country.

In Cambodia you can experience the haunting soft morning light over the eerie temples of Angkor. Then later discover the huge fortified 13th century city of Angkor Thom, with its five monumental gates, and 300ft wide moat – its centre containing one of Angkor's most remarkable sites, the temple of Bayon.



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- Visit the ancient city and temples of Angkor, Cambodia
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- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

* varies according to departure dates please go to website for the latest availability and prices

For a brochure call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Strangers on the sure way to reboot 60s days

LIVING the rockstar lifestyle, gigging and partying with your best friends and hitting the road with The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and The Shadows as your soundtrack.

But almost 50 years after they first took to the stage a group of pals from Dudley have reunited to celebrate a music milestone and a homecoming gig.

They formed their band The Strangers playing to packed out crowds at a host of Midlands venues, living the life of the swinging sixties.

Brumbeat was the word on the lips of many music aficionados trying to break the next big thing after the stunning success of the Fab Four.

Packing

But it was the Black Country band gigging seven days a week that were packing clubs to rival their peers from up and down the country. The Strangers were among a few to impress the club bosses, playing the biggest tracks of the time.

"It was an amazing time. If you could remember the sixties you weren't really there," said former lead singer Roy. "We loved it. We'd be playing seven nights a week with hardly any time to rehearse."

Songs like It's All Over Now by The Rolling Stones, Roll Over Beethoven by Chuck Berry and She Loves You by the Beatles were among their impressive repertoire. The Strangers morphed out of two other bands - The Crestas and The Marauders in the early 60s.

Their settled line-up included lead guitarist Alan Clee, now aged 68 and living in Coseley, drummer Mick Aston, 71, from Dudley, 70-year-old Roy 'Dripper' Kent on vocals, Tony Dalloway, 71, from Lower Gornal, on rhythm guitar and bassist Jake Elcock,



The Strangers in 1964, pose in the boot of a Ford Zodiac. From left, Mick Aston, Alan Clee, Jake Elcock, Tony Dalloway, and Roy 'Dripper' Kent



Back together, in a Ford Mondeo

69, from Sedgley. Tony said: "There was no better feeling than playing in a rock 'n' roll band in the 60s. Our wives might not agree because very often they stayed at home with the children, but for the lads up on stage it was magic."

They graced legendary venues of the day like the Plazas in Old Hill and Handsworth, The Adelphi Ballroom, in West Bromwich, and The Ritz at King's Heath. But one of their most

popular haunts was the Gladstone Liberal Club, known as Dudley Jazz Club, in New Street, in the town centre. Clubs would often pay them around £10 to perform and the group said they were delighted just to be paid to play each night.

Nights would be spent playing sets at pubs finishing off at 10.30pm before packing their gear into a van for a late gig until 2am somewhere else.

"In those days there was so much work that everyone had some money," said Alan. Alan, Jake and Roy will take to the stage together again with performers from other well known bands of the time, including the Montanas, this December. They will be joined by a special guest on keyboards, Chris Groucott, son of the late Kelly Groucott, who was bass player with ELO.

The show, which also features other live acts, takes place on December 7 at Brierley Hill Civic Hall. Tickets are £12. Call 01384 812812.

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Making Friends



Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 60109 (T&Cs below)

SINGLE LADIES

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

LYN slim size 10, 5ft 9ins, attractive with GSOH, OHAC, employed, WLTM genuine guy who is also looking to put some fun back into life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407195

DEBS 37yr old professional, outgoing, bubbly, seeking genuine man for good times in/out and just see where it leads. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407039

NATASHA is a naughty 22yr old lady seeking no strings discreet fun with older man. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366033

BLONDE blue eyed 72yr old widow, GSOH, young at heart, seeks honest, caring gent of similar age for holidays, weekends away and happy times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407113

MEDIUM build female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407003

PAULA 38 single mum with OHAC, attractive blue eyes, size 14, seeking well built male with GSOH and honest/reliable disposition, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407029

WHERE have all the genuine men gone? See single female who enjoys nights in/out, music, seeks sincere male to enjoy good times and get close to. Pls ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407025

SUSAN 34 attractive looking to find that special connection with a nice guy who would enjoy spending good times with me and share new interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406109

ANITA petite 33yr old tanned, toned sexy size 10 female with very high drive and lots of energy looking for similar man for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406835

HI I am Linda a lonely petite mature lady looking for nice caring male up to 65yrs who also has lots of love to give for hopeful relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406715

GOOD looking professional female, 51, enjoys arts, wining/dining, sightseeing, country walks, seeks special male to enjoy great Summer with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406765

LINDA bored housewife wanting to spice things up a bit looking for clean well-mannered professional for discreet adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406705

SUE slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTM willing male to get to know and spend quality times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406693

NICKY lonely single mum with GSoh, honest and very loving seeking trustworthy, cuddly, tactile male who can make all my dreams come true. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406523

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 31315

CHRISTINA 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companion to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more maybe Age/looks and status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405243

MANDY friendly outgoing arty female who loves wine/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out, make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405229

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well-dressed guy with GSoh for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399920

KEVIN 40, stocky, 5ft 2ins, dark hair, likes nights in/out, seeks female, 35-50 for fun and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406773

MARY 45, blue eyes, dark hair, slim, likes sports, cinema, meals out, seeking loving, caring female to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406737

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CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSoh, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135

SINGLE cuddly female, 5ft 6ins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406177

WIDOW young hearted 70's; N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTM younger gentleman with similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404477

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319

NAT easygoing pretty, honest 24yrs, enjoys cosy nights in, romantic walks, holidaying, keeping fit, WLTM fun, loving, energetic male, looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406117

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50+, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395188

SIMPLE female, 43, seeks kind, considerate male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406449

PAULINE 36 intelligent easygoing female with GSoh looking for nice guy who wants to get to know and connect with me, enjoys meals in/out, music and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395295

SHAZZ 33 easygoing voluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTM appreciative guy Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50+, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395188

MARIA 38 single mum with OHAC, attractive blue eyes, size 14, seeking well built male with GSoh and honest/reliable disposition, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407003

PAULINA 36 intelligent easygoing female with GSoh looking for nice guy who wants to get to know and connect with me, enjoys meals in/out, music and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395295

SHAZZ 33 easygoing voluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTM appreciative guy Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50+, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395188

SIMPLY 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360949

CLARE 38, single mum, curly hair glass, loves to be tacked, OHAC, WLTM caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50 Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297

MANDY 36, size 10 but busty, looking for discreet relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

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What's On! Dudley

REVIEW

Evita, Grand Theatre MARTI Pellow may have been the 'star' of Evita but it was Madelena Alberto as Eva who shone throughout.

Her acting was superb, and that voice – strong, dynamic and yet soft and gentle when needed. She lived the part of the teenage girl who ran away to Buenos Aires and into the affections of Juan Peron, the President of Argentina.

And the packed audience at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre just loved it – and her. The standing ovation was well deserved.

Evita is one of Lloyd Webber and Rice's most powerful musicals and her performance was just that.

Memorable

Pop star-turned theatre star Marti Pellow did an admirable job as the revolutionary Che Guevara, the cynical narrator, but at the start it was difficult to hear what he was singing.

Fortunately most people would know the story of how Evita, as she was affectionately known, not only became the First Lady of her country, but to her people, the spiritual leader, before her death from cancer aged just 33.

The story is told through song and Madelena, a Portuguese actress and singer/songwriter sang the memorable Don't Cry for Me Argentina not as a song, but as a speech that Eva gives as the First Lady of Argentina. She held the audience spellbound.

It runs until Saturday. Try to get a ticket. **SA**

Ocean Colour Scene coming back home for big festival

OCEAN Colour Scene are coming home this weekend to headline at the **Moseley Folk Festival** where they will pay homage to their roots by playing their **Moseley Shoals** album.

The festival at Moseley Park, Birmingham runs from Friday until Sunday September 1 with OCS on stage on the first night.

Also lined up are Edwyn Collins, who will be on Stage on the Saturday, The Dublin Legends who are made up of the remaining members of The Dubliners and Yorkshire's Kate Rusby.

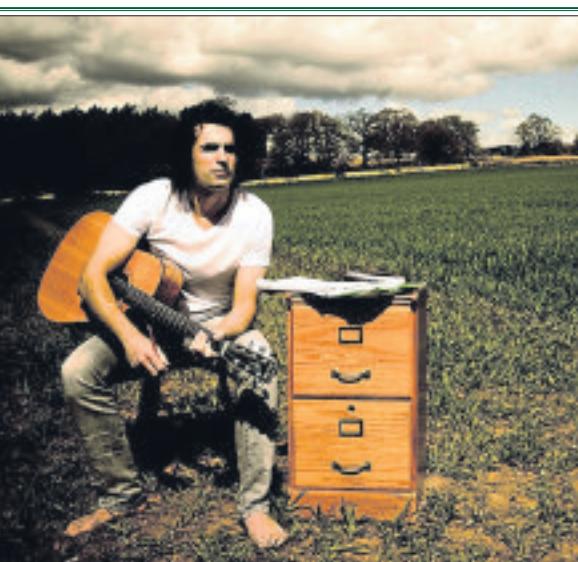
Lucy Rose will take to the stage on Sunday and among the other great acts will be British Sea Power, The Be Good Tanyas, The Staves, The Leisure Society, Katherine Priddy and Tir Na Nog.

Doors open at 1pm on Friday and 11am on Saturday and Sunday. Each day finishes at 10.30pm.

The first acts are on soon after the gates open and Main Stage headliners are the last act of the day and will be on stage around 9pm.

Full performance times will be on display at the festival information tent and the bar; they will also be in the festival programme.

For more information go to www.moseleyfolk.co.uk



Birmingham-based Dan Whitehouse will be playing the Moseley Folk Festival

Dan's the man for Moseley

WOLVERHAMPTON singer songwriter Dan Whitehouse will be appearing at the festival on Sunday.

Dan who is about to launch his second album will be playing the Centre Court Stage.

Originally from Compton Dan is now based in Birmingham and his new CD Reaching for a State of mind will be officially launched on September 29 at the Crescent Theatre, Sheepcote Street, Birmingham. It will then be released on October 7.

At the theatre Dan will be playing with a full band and has recently announced he will be joined by Duke Special as his guest.

Doors open 6pm tickets are £8 in advance or £11 on the night. Call 0121 643 5858.

Revved up for Himley

PLANS are now finalised for the Classic Car and Transport Show taking place at Himley Hall, Dudley, on September 1.

Following on from last year's successful event which attracted a record crowd and hundreds of vehicles, organiser Geoff Price is hoping for good weather to complete a season of outdoor classic car events around the Midlands.

Now in its 14th year the show has once again attracted over 700 vehicles from across the region with cars dating back to the 1920s including a 1924 Rolls Royce and a 1925 locally-produced Bean Tourer. For the children the show has inflatables, quad bikes and miniature open top bus rides.

Gates open 10am to 4.30pm. Admission prices are £6 adults/OAPs and £3 for children. There is free onsite car parking within the grounds for the event.

Witty Steve in Rooms' return

AFTER his sell out debut UK tour last year, Aussie comic Steve Hughes is back to demonstrate his cutting philosophical wit to British audiences once again.

His tours with a new show called While It's Still Legal, beginning the 49-date run at The Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton on Thursday, September 5. Call 0870 320 7000 for tickets.

Greenline



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greenlinecoaches@aol.com

Sat 14th Sep	SOUTHPORT FUNFAIR Victorian Town, SEAFRONT AIRSHOW!! (f/s £55) £18 £16 £13
Wed 18th Sep	BURY MARKET World famous Bury Market One Price £16
Sun 22nd Sep	BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS includes tour of lights (f/s £35) £18 £16 £13
Tue 24th Sep	MYSTERY DAY OUT???? Midweek Saver One Price £12
Sat 28th Sep	BLACKPOOL Rtn 8pm (no tour) (f/s £55) £18 £16 £13
Sun 29th Sep	MALVERN Autumn Show crafts, stalls, vintage vehicles etc inc add £30 £28 £17
Mon 30th Sep	BAKEWELL MARKET & BUXTON One Price £16
Wed 2nd Oct	NOTTINGHAM RIVER CRUISE 3hr cruise & 3 course roast dinner One Price £35
Mon 7th Oct	TORQUAY NETHWAY HOTEL 5 Days Entertainment/Excursions ONLY £169
Mon 14th Oct	BLACKPOOL Carn Brau 5 Days Entertainment/Excursions 99p Bar!!! £235
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Oldbury REP

14th - 21st Sept 2013

QUARTET

By Ronald Harwood

Set in a retirement home for musicians, three former opera singers, who often worked together, are sitting out on the terrace. Reginald, quietly reading, Wilfried chuckling about sex as he regards Cissy relaxing listening to music. Then their equilibrium is disrupted by the arrival of Jean, Reginald's former lover. Will they all get together again? Ticket prices are Wed-Sat £9.00 with concessions at £8.00. Mon & Tues special rate of £7.00 no further concessions.

Films at Oldbury Rep

The Screen on the Green

September 27th Song for Marion

October 11th The Great Gatsby

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What's On!

Listings supplied by Press Association

SUNDAY'S TV 1.09.13

CHOICE



David Threlfall

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** The One Show. **11.30** Weather. **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Helicopter Heroes. **12.40** Countryfile. **(R) 1.35** Bargain Hunters. **2.15** Ultimate Swarms. **(R) 3.15** Victoria Wood's Nice Cup of Tea. **(R) 4.15** Escape to the Country. **(R) 5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Britain's Big Wildlife Revival. **6.35** BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison and Matt Baker explore efforts to clean up south Wales' Gower Peninsula and Adam Henson reveals the threat to livestock from nuisance dogs.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the experts visit the studio at Eardisley, where items include a collection of pottery, a signalling lamp used during D-Day and rare images of Marilyn Monroe. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

9.00 What Remains. Len has returned home after a long drawn back into the mystery of Melissa's death, than he originally thought, and he's determined to get to the bottom of what happened to her. He finds an unlikely ally in pregnant Vidya, and together they uncover some new information in the loft that suggests somebody isn't being entirely truthful about their relationship to the dead woman.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Highlights from today's Premier League fixtures.

11.40 The Puppet Game Show. With hosts Stane Richie and TV presenter Claudia Winkelman. **(R)**

12.20 The Sky at Night. **12.40** Weatherview. **12.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.30** Film: Mighty Joe Young. **(1949) 8.00** Around the World in 80 Gardens. **(R) 9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Incredible Spice Men. **(R) 12.00** Live MotoGP. **2.30** Rowing. **4.00** Equestrian.

6.00 Flog It! James Lewis and Kate Bliss value items in Stroud. **(R)**

6.30 Iolo's Great Welsh Park. Iolo Williams explores Dinas Parc in Carmarthenshire.

7.00 The Great British Bake Off. The 12 remaining contenders face three bread-making tasks, having to make 36 bread sticks, prepare a batch of English muffins and end with a show-stopping loaf. **(R)**

8.00 Dragons' Den. Two Cumbrian woodsmen employ an unusually combative tactic to win the Dragons' approval, and a Glasgow couple try to gain investment in their yoga franchise.

9.00 The Story of the Jews. New series. Simon Schama explores the history of the Jewish people, investigating how they have preserved their identity despite war, deportation, enslavement and exile.

10.00 Blackadder the Third. Edmund tries to find a rich bride for Prince George. **(R)**

10.30 Film: Girl with a Pearl Earring. **(2003) Period drama** starring Scarlett Johansson.

12.05 Sian Zone: Countryfile. **1.00** Holby City. **(R) 2.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Poppy Cat. **6.25** Poppy Cat. **(R) 6.35** Poppy Cat. **6.50** Cannimals. **(R) 6.55** The Wiggles. **6.55** Bobo. **(R) 7.15** Almost Naked Animals. **(R) 7.30** Fish Hooks. **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.30** Country House Sunday. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.15** Murder, She Wrote. **(R) 11.15** ITV News. **11.25** Weather. **11.30** Britain. **4.25** Location, Location, Location. **(R) 12.30** Film: Columbo: The Conspirators. **(R) 3.50** The Chase. **4.50** Film: The Flintstones. **(R) 2000** Rock Vegas. **(2000)**

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Coronation Street. Hour-long episode. Kari makes a shock confession to Fiz, Fiz tells Sinead that Chesney regrets splitting up with her, and Roy surprises Hayley with a special meal in the cafe.

8.00 The X Factor. Limited places at boot camp are at stake as the acts who impressed at the first auditions move on to Wembley Arena for their second performance. Dermot O'Leary hosts.

9.00 Vera. Joined by a new addition to the ranks, Vera and the team investigate the murder of a respected surgeon and the abduction of his two teenage daughters. **10.55** ITV News; Weather.

11.10 The Cube. Two more contestants take on the challenge. **(R)**

12.05 The Store. **12.55** British Superbike Championship. **Highway 555** Motorsport UK. **3.45** ITV Newsround. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R) 5.30** This Is BBC Two.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. **(R) 6.35** The Hoobs. **(R) 7.00** Ironman 2013. **7.30** Outlaw Triathlon. **8.25** The Last Leg. **8.30** The Grand Final. **(R) 8.55** Fraiser. **(R) 9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 1.00** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 1.30** The Simpsons. **(R) 2.00** 10 Things I Hate About You. **(1999) 3.15** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 4.25** Location, Location, Location. **(R) 12.30** Film: Columbo: The Conspirators. **(R) 3.50** Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel. **(2009)** Comedy, starring Zachary Levi.

7.10 Channel 4 News.

7.40 Rebuilding the World Trade Centre. Four-part documentary following artist and filmmaker Michael Riedel's project to capture the reconstruction of the World Trade Centre using time-lapse photography.

9.00 Film: The Dilemma. **(2011)** Premiere. A man realises his best friend's wife is having an affair, but tries to gather proof before telling her all.

11.15 Film: Chaty Man. **(2011)** Sharon Osbourne talks about her X Factor return, Lee Evans and Keeley Hawes chat about their new West End comedy, and Alan meets a few of the stars of Dragons' Den. **(R)**

12.15 Film: Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara. **(2011)** Premiere. Comedy drama, starring Abhay Deol. **2.50** Emily's Song. **(R) 3.05** Four Rooms. **Members of the public try to sell their prized possessions to four dealers in a 4.00 Deal or No Deal. **(R) 4.55** Countdown. **(R) 5.40** SuperScrimpers.**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. **6.25** Bubble Guppies. **6.30** The Wiggles. **6.45** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. **(R) 7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. **(R) 7.25** Noddy in Toyland. **(R) 7.40** City of Friends. **(R) 7.55** Little Princess. **(R) 8.10** The Adventures of Botts. **(R) 8.25** Bedtime Stories. **(R) 8.25** Angels in America. **(R) 8.40** Rupert Bear. **(R) 9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. **(R) 9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 9.45** Jelly Jamm. **10.00** Power Rangers Samurais. **(R) 10.35** Sluggers. **(R) 10.45** Designing Women. **(R) 11.05** Celebrity Big Brother. **(R) 12.00** Celebrity BB: Rylan's Supersized Sunday. **12.55** World's Biggest Pets. **(R) 1.55** Film: Fly Away Home. **(1996) 4.05** Film: Nirm's Island. **(2008) 5.55** Film: The Pursuit of Happiness. **(2006)**

8.00 Once Upon a Time. **(2011)** Baeflire. **(R) 8.15** The Darling family in 1900s London and learns about a magical place called Neverland.

8.55 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.

10.00 Film: The Expendables. **(2010)** Action thriller, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone.

12.00 Film: Blood and Bone. **(2009) 1.40** SuperCasino. **4.00** Wildlife SOS. **(R) 4.25** Make It Big. **(R) 4.50** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 5.00** Angels of Jarm. **(R) 5.10** Hana's Helpline. **(R) 5.20** Angels of Jarm. **(R) 5.25** The Curious Ray Show. **(R) 5.40** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 5.50** Hana's Helpline. **(R) 5.55** Film: The Curious Ray Show. **(R) 6.00** Horror remake, starring Liev Schreiber.

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Film: Race to Witch Mountain. **(2009) 8.35** Great Movie Mistakes. **(II) Not in 9.00** Sun, Sex and Seduction. **Parents 10.00** Family Guy. **11.45** Boom Town. **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 A Poet's Guide to Britain. **7.30** X Factor. **5.40** The Xtra Factor. **6.45** Film: Twister. **(1996) 9.00** The Xtra Factor. **10.00** Film: The Chronicles of Riddick. **(2004)**

ITV2
2.30 Film: Dennis (1993). **4.15** X Factor. **5.40** The Xtra Factor. **6.45** Film: Twister. **(1996) 9.00** Film: The Wings of Dove. **(1997) 11.10** Film: The Inbetweeners. **10.35** The Inbetweeners: Top 10 Moments. **11.40** The Big Bang Theory.

ITV4
3.30 How I Met Your Mother. **5.30** The Mindy Project. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory. **7.30** New Girl. **8.00** Film: Frozen. **9.00** Film: The Inbetweeners. **10.35** The Inbetweeners: Top 10 Moments. **11.40** The Big Bang Theory.

Film4
2.25 Film: Escape to Victory. **(1981) 4.45** Film: Everyone's Very Much But Loose. **(1978) 7.00** Cycling: Vuelt a Espana. **8.00** Film: Cool Hand Luke. **(1967) 10.40** Film: Manhunter. **(1986)**

4
3.30 How I Met Your Mother. **5.30** The Mindy Project. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory. **7.30** New Girl. **8.00** Film: Frozen. **9.00** Film: The Inbetweeners. **10.35** The Inbetweeners: Top 10 Moments. **11.40** The Big Bang Theory.

2.50 Baby's Day Out. **(1994) 4.45** Laputa: Castle in the Sky. **(1986) 7.20** The Wedding Date. **(2005)** Romantic comedy, with Debra Messing and Dermot Mulroney. **9.00** 48 Hrs. **(1982)** Comedy thriller, starring Rick Moranis and Eddie Murphy. **10.35** The Omen. **(2006)** Horror remake, starring Liev Schreiber.

What Remains

BBC1, 9pm

During the past few months, viewers have been treated to several top-notch crime dramas, and many critics wondered if What Remains would turn out to be the poor relation, but not a bit of it. Len is now convinced that there's more to Melissa's death than he originally thought, and he's determined to get to the bottom of what happened to her. He finds an unlikely ally in pregnant Vidya, and together they uncover some new information in the loft that suggests somebody isn't being entirely truthful about their relationship to the dead woman.

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

La Bamba, BBC1, 11.55pm

Musical biopic of 1950s singer Ritchie Valens, whose promising career was cut short by the fatal plane crash in 1959 that also claimed the lives of Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper. The film focuses on Valens' thwarted romance with Donna Ludwig and his rivalry with his older step-brother. Starring Lou Diamond Phillips. (1987)

TUESDAY

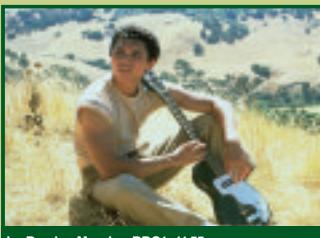
Accused at 17, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A teenage girl becomes prime suspect in the murder of a girl who had been secretly seeing her boyfriend. The accused's mother stands by her and launches an investigation to expose the true culprit, a schoolfriend who committed the crime as part of a twisted revenge plan. Drama, with Cynthia Gibb. (2009)

WEDNESDAY

The Edge of Love, BBC1, 11.35pm

The renowned poet Dylan Thomas is unexpectedly reunited with his former lover Vera Phillips, both of them having married in the meantime. Passion is soon reignited between the pair, but surprisingly, Vera also forms a very close friendship with Thomas' wife. Fact-based period drama, starring Keira Knightley. (2008)



La Bamba, Monday, BBC1, 11.55pm

THURSDAY

The Greatest, BBC1, 11.35pm

A grieving mother becomes obsessed with her dead son's last moments, while her unfaithful husband struggles to comfort her and their surviving son feels he can never live up to his brother's reputation. Their lives are complicated further by unwelcome encounters with the dead man's pregnant girlfriend and the driver who killed him. Drama, starring Pierce Brosnan. (2009)

FRIDAY

The Tempest, BBC2, 11.05pm

A noblewoman with sorcerous powers is banished to a remote island along with her daughter. She uses her abilities to dominate the magical creatures living there and summons a storm that wrecks a ship. When the survivors come ashore, she learns one of them is her brother, who exiled her, and plans revenge. Shakespearean fantasy, starring Helen Mirren. (2010)

Fallen, BBC1, 11.05pm

A detective investigates a series of grisly murders that mimic the handiwork of an executed serial killer. The case takes a stranger twist when he realises a bloodthirsty dismembered demon is responsible – and that it can leap from one unsuspecting host to another. Supernatural thriller, starring Denzel Washington, John Goodman and Embeth Davidtz. (1998)

Pick of the Week

A nation tunes in to see a new star being born

You can tell when summer is almost over because ITV bombard us with ads for jugernaut talent search The X Factor.

Yes, we know it feels like the last one only finished a few weeks ago; our eyes are still recovering from the retina-searing fireworks and pyrotechnics of the 2012 contest.

Amazingly that was last December, and as the year has zipped by faster than Simon Cowell on a jet ski, it's time to face the music once more.

The last series was plagued by stories about failing ratings and Nicole Scherzinger's risqué comments, not to mention the occasional falling-out between the judges, but that's what the show's always been about.

Behind the scenes, Cowell is keen to ensure the show stays in the headlines from now until that precious finale.

To be fair, these first few episodes are usually TV gold as we witness more deluded wannabe acts given their shot at the big time, while some turns with genuine talent attempt to overcome their nerves in the hope of winning the nation's hearts.

And it's not always the winners of this show who become the biggest stars. After all, runners-up Olly Murs, Olly Murs (shamelessly shoehorned into Kick Ass 2 recently) have all seen their careers go through the roof.

Once more we welcome Gary Barlow, Nicole Scherzinger, and original series judges Sharon Osbourne and Louis ('I'm still here!') Walsh.

"Music has to be from the soul, it has to be about learning your craft," enthused Louis a few weeks before TXF's inaugural run.

"I don't want these people to think they can just walk into a television show and become a star. It doesn't happen like that. You have to be good."

Well, good at brightening up a dull Saturday night if nothing else.

After all, Jedward weren't blessed with great singing voices, and they've gone on to carve a lucrative career for themselves. And 2012's breakthrough star Ryan Clark was the first to admit he was no great shakes in the vocals department.

It didn't matter a jot. The audience loved him, and after winning Celebrity Big Brother earlier this year, he went on to host The Big Picture on the Side, and is now favorite to join the cast of I'm A Celebrity... when that returns in a few weeks.

Because of TXF 2012's relatively poor ratings, there have been a few tweaks to this year's format.

It will be shown twice a week with Saturdays initially dedicated to the closed room auditions (like the first five years of the show).

The most impressive acts then perform at Wembley Arena on Sundays in front of thousands.

The perpetually diplomatic Dermot O'Leary is on hand to celebrate with those talented hopefuls who progress through to the next round, and commiserate with the tone-deaf auditionees who are not so fortunate.

Fingers crossed we get more genuine stars, like 2012 contestants Lucy Spraggan, Jähmene Douglas and winner James Arthur.

As Nicole says, it should be "Shamazing!"



The judges pass their opinions in The X Factor, Saturday, ITV, 8pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Gadget Man
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Keen on the star tech: the next generation? Then this is the show for you. Sadly Stephen Fry has moved on, but IT Crowd veteran Richard Ayoade is not a bad choice to fill his shoes. For this new run, he'll be testing all the prototypes and gizmos he can get his hands on, as well as developing his own problem-solving contraptions. For the inaugural show, he and actor Stephen Mangan embark on a luxury camping trip. Richard will be trying out the world's biggest pen knife, sheds light on the latest in virtual reality, tries out a prototype camper van, and demonstrates an amazing straw that enables the user to drink from rivers without being poisoned.

TUESDAY

Ade in Adland
ITV, 8pm

The first television advert was broadcast in 1955, and since then many of us have been bombarded with clever ads for food and drink. You'll get to see some of them in this show as Adrian Edmondson reveals how TV commercials over the past seven decades have reflected the ways in which Britain has evolved. We see how the late 1960s saw an increasing number of ads aimed at women as alternatives to beer and wine grew in popularity, while microwave-ready meals changed the eating habits of many. And for fans of the medium, yes, we will get to see those beloved Cinzano ads with Leonard Rossiter and Joan Collins, as well as the rib-tickling Smash Martians commercials.

TUESDAY

ITV, 9pm

If there's one thing we can't get enough of – according to telly bosses at least – it's reality shows set in hospitals. So this new two-parter may not offer too many surprises to those of us who have caught the veritable litany of similar series, but Trauma: Level One does have a few things going for it – and not just a snappy title. The setting – University Hospital Southampton's major trauma centre – is one of only 12 such units in the country, and

Trauma: Level One

ITV, 9pm

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features the most critical patients receiving only the best care. Cases in the opener include a 24-year-old man injured in a mini-bus crash on the M4, and a 14-year-old boy hurt in a road accident.

WEDNESDAY

Whitechapel

ITV, 9pm

The latest run of the hit series contains three separate stories that run across two episodes each – so six instalments in total. The middle one has been penned by Steve Pemberton, who also plays Buchanan in the show, while the other two are by the show's creators, Ben Corlett and Caroline Ip. The first case begins with the discovery of a man crushed to death by stones – but his demise is just the first of several bizarre murders that seem to be linked to a 16th-century incident involving witchcraft. Has somebody embarked on a real-life witch-hunt, and if so, why? And what are its links to 20th-century spies? Rupert Penry-Jones stars.



Whitechapel, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

lies south of Leeds. It's also the setting for this new, eight-part series which follows life at the local Thornhill Community Academy. Headteacher Johnny Mitchell was born and raised in the area, and he's determined to make sure the recent upturn in exam results continues – his main ambition is to give every pupil the best chance to maximise their potential, both in terms of academic success, and as upstanding members of the community. Expect warmth, humour and universally recognisable themes of teenage life and pupil-teacher relationships in what promises to be a fascinating and, at times, eye-opening docuserp.

FRIDAY

World Cup Qualifying Live

ITV, 7.30pm

England look to take another step along the road to next year's World Cup in Brazil, as they welcome Moldova to Wembley Stadium, for what should prove to be a straightforward evening. While Roy Hodgson's men have hardly impressed during this campaign, the gulf in class between the Three Lions and their opponents is enormous, as highlighted by the 5-0 victory in the reverse fixture, which, arguably, could have seen England into double figures, had they been more clinical in front of goal. This is the seventh qualifier under Hodgson and he remains unbeaten, but the three wins and three draws have given little indication of improvement since the tenure of Fabio Capello, and participation at the finals is far from certain, with Poland, Ukraine and Montenegro all still in with a shout.

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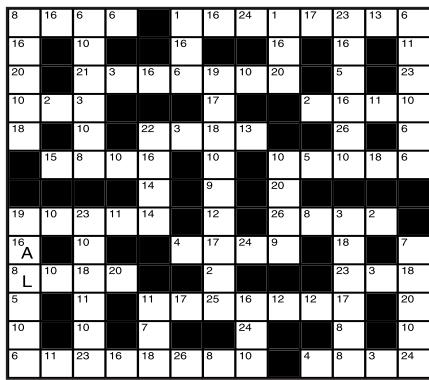
PHONE FOR BROCHURE

Brain Gym

No.236

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

T	N	Y	S	C	X	R	W	Z	L	F	A	M
G	D	I	K	H	U	J	P	V	Q	E	B	O

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

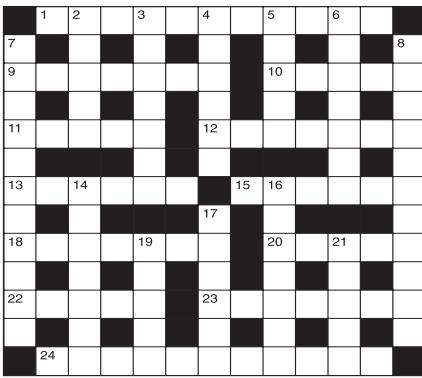
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Go after cheap rail arrangement for island group (11)
9. One who once performed as an oppressive creditor (7)
10. One wouldn't think better of a patient who is this (5)
11. Black material for the making of a sports arena (5)
12. The star is disturbed by suggestions of blackmail (7)
13. Most pleasant Riviera resort street (6)
15. Humiliate me in the presence of the cleric (6)
18. Drug taken by Eastern female with a leading part in the play (7)
20. It physically supports nearly everything according to law (7)
22. Makes an approach? (5)
23. Part of the storm entailed considerable distress (7)
24. Ancestors to which relative pronouns refer (11)

Down

2. About to perform and respond to a certain stimulus (5)
3. Free rides can produce small difficulties (7)
4. Equality required for one in a political faction (6)
5. One who babbles in a bawler key! (5)
6. Luggage in French station will make the place look untidy (7)
7. What an assistant deck-worker will provide? (7,4)
8. One spy trial may reveal an outstanding character (11)
14. Its fall will sometimes be followed by its call! (7)
16. Blow up the shot! (7)
17. Get out of debt to compose one's mind (6)
19. Something printed for children (5)
21. Massive place to have a fire, we hear (5)
24. Disposition (11)



Quick Clues:

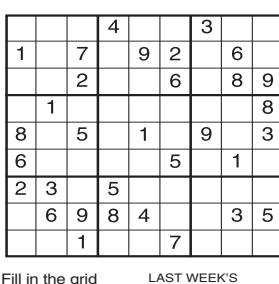
Across

1. Promotion (11)
9. Network of crossed laths (7)
10. Pale yellow (5)
11. Inflate (5)
12. Praise bestowed (7)
13. Make certain (6)
15. Soul (6)
18. Deny (7)
20. Best-known fabulist (5)
22. Meaning (5)
23. Expression of approval (7)
24. Disposition (11)

Down

2. As before (5)
3. Airman (7)
4. Horrific (6)
5. Mediterranean island (5)
6. Wandering (7)
7. Dumbfound (11)
8. Not tried (11)
14. Formulated knowledge (7)
16. Athletic ground (7)
17. Pearl-producer (6)
19. Soak (5)
21. Disdain (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS >

8	3	5	4	6	1	7	2	9
1	9	7	8	5	2	6	4	3
2	4	6	3	7	9	5	8	0
7	5	8	1	3	2	4	9	6
4	1	3	9	8	6	2	5	7
6	2	8	5	1	7	9	3	4
5	7	2	1	4	8	3	9	6
3	8	1	6	9	5	4	7	2
9	6	4	7	2	3	1	8	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 High-road; 5 Bali; 8 Slur; 10 Caravans; 11 Lists; 12 Hailing; 13 Electromagnet; 18 Lothario; 19 Men; 20 Pendant; 21 Banal; 22 Eats; 23 Scantly; Down: 2 Ill-will; 3 Heretic; 4 Anachronistic; 6 Arabian; 7 Insight; 8 Maxima; 13 Eclipse; 14 Extinct; 15 Tiaras; 16 Gymnast; 17 Eye-ball. QUICK - Across: 1 Artifice; 5 Stud; 9 Use; 10 Invasion; 11 Steel; 12 A la mode; 13 Consideration; 18 Entrance; 19 Nest; 20 Opinion; 21 Fiery; 22 Toga; 23 Defiance; Down: 2 Risotto; 3 Inroads; 4 Convalescence; 6 Tripoli; 7 Dungeon; 8 Canada; 13 Cheroot; 14 Nothing; 15 Italic; 16 Tension; 17 Observe.

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Hong Kong and the treasures of Thailand

THIS escorted holiday combines Hong Kong and Bangkok, with a stay on the bank of the River Kwai followed by the chance to rest and relax in a beach-side resort.

The first part of the holiday is spent in Hong Kong where there is plenty of time to explore this extraordinary place. There are also two optional excursions on offer. A Hong Kong Island tour, which will highlight some of the main attractions and a visit to the former Portuguese colony of Macau, located 40 miles across the Pearl River Delta.

An internal flight takes you to Bangkok where there is an included guided tour of this wonderful city followed by a khlong canal cruise. You will also be taken to the floating markets at Damnoen Saduak and the 70-acre Rose Garden on another included excursion.

Perhaps the highlight of the holiday will be the included River Kwai and 'Death Railway' excursion, journeying on the train to Nam Tok Sai Yok Nai on the infamous route through the Thai jungle.

Finally you arrive at the picture postcard resort of Cha-Am, set beside the blue waters of the Gulf of Thailand where you can relax and enjoy this beachside hotel. Again two optional excursions are offered to nearby Hua Hin, the favourite holiday resort of the Thai Royal family, and the riverside town of Phetchaburi.

**FROM £1,599***

12 days Various departure dates

Price includes

- Return flights and internal flight
- Nine nights hotel accommodation including six breakfasts and one lunch
- Full-day Bangkok City tour and Klong Cruise
- Full day guided visit including the Bridge over the River Kwai and the Death Railway
- Free time in Hong Kong and Cha-Am Beach Resort
- Air-conditioned coach travel overseas
- Services of a tour manager overseas

Single rooms subject to availability

* various according to departure dates please go to website for the latest prices and availability

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Ancient and Baroque

Rome was, is, and probably always will be, one of the world's most compelling cities.

During the guided tour of Baroque Rome see some of the city's most famous sights including the Trevi fountain, the 18th century Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona and the Piazza di Spagna, home to the poet Keats.

The tour of Ancient Rome features the law courts and the Podium and not forgetting two of the most famous centres of 'entertainment' the world has ever known: the Circus Maximus and the Colosseum. No visit to Rome is complete without experiencing these magnificent sights.

A visit to the Villa Borghese is also included – home to some of the city's finest museums.

**FROM £539***

Five days various departure dates

Price includes:

- Return flights
- Four nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided tour of Baroque Rome
- Guided tour of Ancient Rome
- Timed visit to the Villa Borghese**
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

* varies according to departure date
- please go to website for the latest availability and prices

**Entrance fee is not included

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO
HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Two-bed home on at £99,950



On the ground floor is a lounge, 12ft 6in by 12ft 4in, with its staircase to the first floor area

A TWO-BEDROOM semi-detached period cottage in Birch Coppice, Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill, is for sale based on offers around £99,950.

Having been recently redecorated and with a refitted shower room, the house is described as offering ready to move into accommodation, ideal for first time buyers or buy to let investors.

On the ground floor is a lounge, 12ft 6in by 12ft 4in, with staircase to the first floor and wall-mounted contemporary electric fire and archway into a kitchen/diner measuring 10ft 10in by 8ft and with a range of wall and base units, roll-edge work surfaces, inset stainless steel single drainer with mixer tap, integrated electric hob, oven and extractor hood, space for table and chairs and archway into a utility room with appliance spaces and door to shower room with cubicle, WC and sink.

On the first floor are two bedrooms while outside the property stands behind a dwarf wall with to the rear a courtyard style garden gravelled for easy maintenance.

Call estate agent Billingham Taylor on 01384 234900 for further details or to arrange a viewing.



A semi-detached in Birch Coppice, Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill, is available via Billingham Taylor

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12 SPRING ROAD, EDBGASTON

Commercial Investment

Lot No.	Address	Guide Price	33	409 MUSSEL FARM, BRINCHAM, B12 9PT	Commercial Investment	75,000 - 80,000
1	130 COLLIS STREET, STOURBRIDGE, WEST MIDLANDS B76 4EE	26,000 - 30,000	34	224 WILDEBERRY ROAD AND 2 BRIDGE ROAD, WALSALL, WS2 9QN	Freehold Vacant Residential	30,000 - 35,000
2	42 BRIELEY LANE, EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM, B23 6HJ	65,000 - 80,000	35	5 DIXON ROAD, MUSLEY BRINCHAM, B13 9EJ	Freehold Vacant Residential	30,000 - 35,000
3	FLAT 1, WILLOW COURT, COPICE ROAD, MOSLEY, BIRMINGHAM B13 9QP	35,000 - 38,000	36	UNIT 2, 22 MEETING LANE, BRIELEY HILL, WEST MIDLANDS B75 3LB	Freehold Vacant Commercial	50,000 - 64,000
4	FLAT 18, THARLUP COURT, TINDELL, OLDFIELD WEST, MIDLANDS B9 2UD	20,000 - 25,000	37	30 CAROLINE STREET, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY5 2DP	Freehold Vacant Residential	60,000 - 66,000
5	43 GIBSONS ROAD, TRENCH, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE TF2 7JP	7,500 - 10,000	38	42 PAROLINE STREET, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY5 2DP	Freehold Vacant Commercial	180,000 - 195,000
6	37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 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2535, 2537, 2539, 2541, 2543, 2545, 2547, 2549, 2551, 2553, 2555, 2557, 2559, 2561, 2563, 2565, 2567, 2569, 2571, 2573, 2575, 2577, 2579, 2581, 2583, 2585, 2587, 2589, 2591, 2593, 2595, 2597, 2599, 2601, 2603, 2605, 2607, 2609, 2611, 2613, 2615, 2617, 2619, 2621, 2623, 2625, 2627, 2629, 2631, 2633, 2635, 2637, 2639, 2641, 2643, 264					



The detached house is in a slightly elevated position close to catchment schools and local amenities

Planning permission in place for extension

A PROPERTY in Avenue Road, Compton, Wolverhampton, is being sold with planning permission in place to extend it into a five bedroom house with three en suites.

Priced at £320,000, the property is in a slightly elevated position and stands in a tree-lined road close to primary and secondary schools and local amenities.

Laundry

The home benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, driveway and garage and spacious accommodation briefly comprising of entrance hallway, guest WC, living room, separate dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, laundry room, conservatory, master bedroom with en suite, three further bedrooms and family bathroom.

Call Charles Derby Estates on 01902 244200 for more details.



Living room – Charles Darby Estates is handling the sale of the property

Revamp project has £400,000 price tag



Turret House provides original accommodation plus three self-contained flats

AN eye-catching property in the sought after area of Tettenhall, Wolverhampton complete with turret as its name implies, is for sale based on offers around £400,000.

Turret House in Stockwell End, has been converted in various ways over the years to leave original accommodation and three self-contained flats.

It now requires complete renovation/ refurbishment and could either be converted back into one home or apartments, subject to planning approval.

Bathroom

On the ground floor is a hallway, cellar, lounge with fireplace, dining room, kitchen with double bowl sink, floor and wall units and a third reception/ bedroom with shower room off.

On the first floor are two bedrooms and a bathroom, with stairs to the "turret room" with two self-contained flats, and the third flat on the ground floor.

Outside is a detached double garage and driveway, gardens, rear courtyard area, utility store and brick store. Call agent Jon Stevenson on 01902 753131.



HALESOWEN, Bromsgrove Road £850 ppcm
Located in the desirable area of Romsley. This unfurnished semi-detached house features gas central heating, modern and spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, loft space, front & rear gardens, garage, fantastic views. Viewing strongly recommended.



HALESOWEN, Jimara, Feldon Lane £695 ppcm
An extended traditional semi-detached house with plenty of space. Comprising a large living room, separate dining room, study, 2 double bedrooms, 1 large single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, kitchen with appliances, separate utility room, downstairs wc, driveway for 3 cars.



HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place £650 ppcm
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.



HALESOWEN, Wroxley House £625 ppcm
Luxury living in Hayley Green. This luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.



BIRMINGHAM, City Heights £625 ppcm
A furnished 2nd floor apartment, in the centre of Birmingham, briefly featuring 2 double bedrooms, through lounge/kitchen, electric storage heating, bathroom, shower over bath, parking space, close to Snow Hill train station and walking distance to the city centre.



BEARWOOD, St Marys Road £625 ppcm
A 2 bedroom furnished to suit mid terraced house located in this very popular area of Bearwood. The property offers spacious accommodation including 2 reception rooms, kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower over bath, 2 double bedrooms. Private rear garden. On road parking. Available now.



HALESOWEN, Holt Road £595 ppcm
A nicely presented refurbished and terraced home, close to local shops. Featuring 3 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with white goods, bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage, unfurnished.



HALESOWEN, Linden Avenue £595 ppcm
Situated in a quiet cul de sac location. A spacious detached bungalow offering good sized accommodation having 2 reception rooms, open plan breakfast/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom, good sized rear garden, garage/driveway parking. Available now.



HALESOWEN, Victoria Road £575 ppcm
A large unfurnished end terrace house, close to local shops and transport links, briefly featuring 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs w.c. & bathroom with shower, gas central heating, driveway parking. Available 6/9/2013.



HALESOWEN, Whitefriars Drive £575 ppcm
An unfurnished mid terraced house, in a popular cul-de-sac, close to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring central heating, 1 reception room, fitted dining kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms with 1 having fitted wardrobes, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, driveway parking.



HALESOWEN, Fairmile Road £525 ppcm
Beautifully furnished. Situated in a popular residential area of Halesowen. This modern furnished 1st floor apartment comprises 2 double bedrooms, excellent natural light in lounge, modern fitted kitchen, bathroom with a shower, gas central heating, double glazing, garage parking, and communal gardens.



HALESOWEN, Howley Grange Road £495 ppcm
An unfurnished split level flat on a sought after road. Ideal for Howley Grange Primary School area of Birmingham. This property features a utility room, fitted kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Benefits also include gas central heating, garden.



CRADLEY HEATH, Mill Road £495 ppcm
Located in this very popular Timbrel Estate and ideally situated for local schools and transport links. Comprising 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, tiered rear garden. On road parking.



CRADLEY HEATH, King Street £475 ppcm
Located in the heart of Old Hill with shops and train links close by. This unfurnished top floor modern apartment comprises 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space.



BRIERLEY HILL, Little John Street £475 ppcm
Located within walking distance to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill. This unfurnished modern end terrace house features 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c. spacious living room, bathroom with shower, rear garden, off road parking for 2 cars.



NETHERTON, Round Street £475 ppcm
Set in a quiet road, is this lovely semi-detached home. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars, unfurnished. Popular residential street close to Netherton High Street.



LYE, High Street £450 ppcm
Large and spacious 1st floor apartment in the centre of Lye. This large and spacious 1st floor apartment has a lovely lounge with a bay window, 2 good sized bedrooms, new bathroom suite but no shower, modern and contemporary kitchen with oven and hob, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking.



CRADLEY HEATH, Pear Tree Lane £450 ppcm
Modern 1st floor apartment. Situated on a popular development within walking distance of Old Hill train station and shops. Featuring 1 large double bedroom and 1 single, gas central heating, spacious lounge, room with bay window, open plan kitchen, bathroom with shower, parking space, rear garden.



WORDLEY, John Street £450 ppcm
Close to local buses to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and a short walk from Amblecote. This 2 double bedroom terraced house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, on road parking and an enclosed rear garden.



TIPTON, Ferguson Drive £450 ppcm
A lovely modern 1st floor apartment, which is ideally located for Wednesbury and Dudley. This great apartment features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, 2 allocated parking spaces, communal gardens.



CRADLEY HEATH, Halesowen Road £400 ppcm
This value for money unfurnished terraced house, close to Old Hill town centre and Old Hill train station. Featuring 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. NO REAR GARDEN.

Property

Home is situated in a highly regarded area

A TRADITIONALLY styled family home in one of south Walsall's most sought after areas is on the market priced at £295,000.

The house in Skip Lane benefits from gas central heating and uPVC double glazing with many appealing features including a spacious extended lounge, refitted breakfast kitchen and mature rear garden.

It is handy for local shops at Gility village and with easy access into Walsall town centre and access to the Midlands motorway network as well as being close to schools including Queen Mary's Grammar.

Integrated

On the ground floor is a guest cloakroom with WC, a dining room, lounge with feature fireplace and French doors to rear garden and breakfast kitchen with a range of base and wall units, integrated oven, hob and dishwasher with door to a large garage area and utility room with space and plumbing for washer dryer.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of WC, wash hand basin, panelled bath and separate shower cubicle.

Outside to the front is a neat garden with ample off road driveway parking with to the rear a garden with patio area.

For details call Edwards Moore, 01922 615222.



The traditional house in Skip Lane, Walsall, is on the market for offers based on £295,000 via local estate agent Edwards Moore

Offers in excess of £165,000 invited for semi-detached



Paul Dubberley is handling the sale of this traditional property

THIS traditional three-bed semi-detached house in Banks Street, Walsall, is on the market with no upward chain based on offers in excess of £165,000.

The property benefits from double glazing, central heating, private rear garden and accommodation briefly comprising of entrance hall, dining room, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, utility, downstairs WC and family bathroom.

On the ground floor the entrance hallway has a Minton tiled floor while the lounge measuring 12ft 6in by 11ft 6in has a gas fire and surround and the dining room is 13ft 6in by 12ft 1in.

Utility

The kitchen, 12ft 5in by 9ft 10in, has a range of wall and base units, work surfaces, one-and-a-half bowl sink drainer with mixer tap, electric hob, oven and an extractor hood.

There is plumbing for dishwasher, with a utility having sink drainer with mixer tap, base unit, work surface, plumbing for washing machine and door to WC.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with bath with electric shower over, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

Outside is a concrete print patio, gravelled pathway, borders, plants and shrubs. Contact estate agent Paul Dubberley on 01902 633323 for details.

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Wolverhampton Road

- * A spacious traditional style link detached house
- * Through room forming lounge and dining area
- * Kitchen, utility and conservatory, ground floor wc
- * Three first floor bedrooms, bathroom and separate wc
- * Conservatory, garage converted into further ground floor bedroom
- * Scope for substantial extension
- * Subject to planning permission EPC = E
- * Offers in the region of £285,000



16A Banners Street

- * Modernised and terraced house
- * 2 bedrooms & 2 reception rooms
- * Kitchen with oven, hob & hood
- * Bathroom with shower over bath
- * UPVC double glazing & GCH
- * Available from 17th September
- * EPC = E
- Monthly rent of £525+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



58 Trinity Street

- * Spacious mid-terraced house
- * Two double bedrooms
- * Kitchen with some appliances
- * Upstairs bathroom with shower
- * Neutral decor, GCH & DG windows
- * Private garden & car space * EPC = D
- Monthly rent of £495+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



34 Spinners End Drive

- * Near to local ground floor flat
- * Bedroom with wardrobe
- * Open-plan lounge/kitchen
- * Electric heating
- * Shower room * Allocated car space
- * View now! * EPC = D
- Monthly rent of £300+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



Arden Grove

- * Mid-terraced house
- * Tastefully presented and ideal for first time purchasers * Through living room featuring kitchen & dining area
- * Fitted kitchen/breakfast room
- * First floor double bedrooms & bathroom with shower
- * Attic room * Enclosed garden
- * Gas boiler heating radiators
- * Double glazed windows * EPC = D
- Offers in the region of £99,950**



Wolverhampton Road

- * Semi-Detached House
- * Extended Kitchen
- * Two Reception Rooms
- * Three Bedrooms
- * Bathroom with Shower Cubicle
- * Side Garage EPC = D
- Offers in the region of £174,950**



Pool Lane

- * Detached House
- * Kitchen/dining room
- * Through lounge
- * Downstairs wc
- * Conservatory
- * Three Bedrooms (one downstairs)
- * Side Garage EPC = C
- Offers in the region of £149,950**



Glaslyn Avenue

- * Mid-terraced house
- * Spacious & tastefully presented with 3 bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms & bathroom
- * Fitted kitchen/breakfast room with balcony
- * L-Shaped lounge/dining area
- * Utility, enclosed gardens, gas boiler heating radiators * Fitted carpets, A must view property * EPC = C
- Offers in the region of £178,950**



Flat 8 Beechwood Court 437 Halesowen Road

- * Bedsit style flat
- * Bedsit room with storage
- * Fitted kitchen
- * Double glazed windows
- * Night storage heating * EPC = E
- * Car space within communal grounds
- Monthly rent of £295+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



Flat Above 158 Halesowen Road

- * First floor flat.
- * One bedroom.
- * Double glazed windows.
- * Electric heating.
- * New carpets/ floor coverings. EPC=E
- Monthly rent of £375+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



20A Abbey Road

- * Two bed flat
- * Various appliances
- * Large living room
- * Parking space
- * EPC = F
- Monthly rent of £425+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



Bodenham Road

- * Semi-detached house
- * Kitchen/Dining Room
- * Off-Road Parking
- * Three Bed Rooms
- * Gas Boiler serving radiators
- * Double glazing to windows
- * Downstairs WC
- * EPC = E
- Offers in the region of £112,500**



Forest Road

- * Deceptively spacious semi
- * Three good sized bedrooms
- * Large living room
- * In need of general modernisation
- * No upward chain EPC=E
- * Garage with utility area to rear
- * Enclosed gardens *EPC = E
- Offers in the region of £189,950**



Wolverhampton Road

- * Three bedroom semi-detached house
- * Two reception rooms
- * In need of general modernisation
- * No upward chain EPC=E
- * Side store (potential small side garage)
- Offers in the region of £99,950**



Hagley Road

- * Self-contained flat
- * Main accommodation on first floor
- * Two bedrooms
- * Allocated parking space
- * Close to bus stop and shops
- * EPC = C
- Offers in the region of £119,950**



160B Coombs Road

- * self-contained flat
- * one bedroom
- * UPVC double glazed windows
- * Electric heating
- * Rent inclusive of water charges
- * EPC = E
- Monthly rent of £399+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



Suite 1 Mercer House 780A Hagley Road West

- * Well presented
- * First Floor Single office
- * Air conditioning/heater
- * Communal Kitchen and toilets
- * Set service charge * EPC = G
- Annual rent of £1,900**



Hill & Cakemore Conservative & Union Club Long Lane

- * C (Both Club & Flat)
- * Long Established Social Club
- * Extensive car park to rear
- * Bar, function/club room with dance floor
- * First floor snooker room
- * Two bedroom Steward's accommodation
- Offers in the region of £250,000**

Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Adding oomph to Focus and Fiesta ST



A Mountune added Focus ST can sprint from 0-62mph in under six seconds

FORD'S critically acclaimed Focus ST and Fiesta ST hot hatches just got hotter with the introduction of official Mountune upgrades.

The packages are developed by race engine and road-car performance specialist Mountune, and boost output from the Focus ST's 2.0-litre EcoBoost engine to 275PS – 10PS more than a Porsche Boxster which costs £15,000 more (£38,237). Even the legendary Ford Sierra Cosworth RS500 would be left with a rear view of the Mountune-upgraded Focus ST,

which can sprint from 0-62mph in less than six seconds – more than half second faster than the standard Focus ST.

Ford is also offering an official Mountune upgrade for the Fiesta ST, which will increase maximum power to 215PS, enabling 0-62mph acceleration in 6.7sec, compared with 6.9sec from the factory model – faster than a £35,865 Mercedes-Benz SLK 200 AMG Sport.

The Mountune upgrades boost both Focus ST and Fiesta ST in-gear acceleration too. Peak Focus ST torque, heightened to 400Nm, improves 31-62mph acceleration in fourth gear



Badge of honour – the logo on the ST models

by 0.8sec to 4.9sec, while peak Fiesta ST torque, enhanced to 320Nm, improves 31-62mph acceleration in fourth gear by 0.7sec to 5.7sec. Any of the UK's 120 Mountune-appointed Ford dealers will be able to fit the upgrade – in under 60 minutes for the Fiesta ST, and less than 90 minutes for the Focus ST.

Modified

Both are fully compatible with the Ford warranty, meaning Mountune modified vehicles continue to be covered against mechanical failure for three years or 60,000 miles from the original date of purchase.



The power-boosting Ford Fiesta Mountune upgrade costs £599

inlet duct, a high-flow filter element and unique calibration.

The Focus ST Mountune upgrade, at £1,225 for silver and £1,275 for black, still means the boosted Focus costs less than a standard Volkswagen Golf GTi. The Fiesta ST Mountune upgrade costs £599, with the finished Fiesta costing less than both the standard Peugeot 208 GTi and Renaultsport Clio 200 Turbo.

"We worked hand-in-hand with Ford engineers to deliver what we believe is the best bang-for-buck value on the market," said David Moore, Mountune marketing manager.

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Motoring



The value-for-money Perodua Myvi SXI benefits from a high specification as standard

You can buy Perodua Myvi SXI with interest-free finance offer

PERODUA has announced that customers purchasing a brand new Myvi SXI before the end of September can now take advantage of interest-free finance.

Myvi benefits from a high specification as standard, making it great value for money.

Equipment found across the Myvi range includes electrically adjustable colour-matched door mirrors, air conditioning, colour-matched door handles and bumpers, four electric windows, and an integral radio/CD player, plus much more.

To take advantage of the interest-free finance offer or any other special offer currently available from Perodua, customers should visit their local dealer to obtain further information and to find out more about the Myvi super-mini.

Customers can locate their nearest dealer by visiting www.perodua.com

or by calling Perodua UK on 01491 415230.

Finance – representative example

Cash Price: £6,999

Deposit: £3,499

Amount of credit: £3,499.50

Credit facility fee: £0

Option to purchase fee: £0

Interest: £0

Total charge for credit: £0

Total amount payable: £6,999

23 monthly payments of: £145.81

Final payment of: £145.87

APR: 0 per cent APR representative

Rate of interest: 0 per cent fixed



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Finance Example - Cash Price £4495, Less Cash or Part Exchange Deposit £500, Amount of Credit £4495, Total Amount Payable £5925.16, 48 Monthly Payments of £117.23 or 260 Weekly Payments of £22.04.



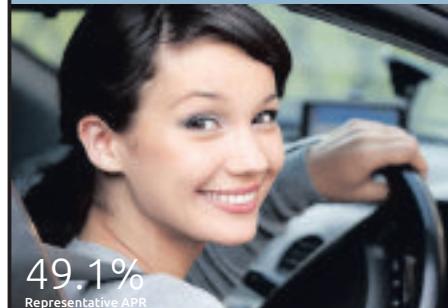
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The Volkswagen Jetta Limited Edition is based on the SE model and is priced at £20,750 on the road

The limited Edition VW Jetta offers great value for money

WITH its smooth ride, spacious interior, cavernous 510-litre boot and terrific towing ability, the Volkswagen Jetta has always been a great car in which to 'jet' away.

Now it offers better value than ever, thanks to the introduction of the Jetta Limited Edition.

Based on the popular Jetta SE, the Jetta Limited Edition packs in £2,900-worth of extra equipment for a premium of just £160. Only 450 of these models are available, and they are in Volkswagen retailers now at a price of £20,750 RRP OTR.

Every Jetta Limited Edition comes with a super-frugal 1.6-litre 105 PS TDI engine with BlueMotion Technol-

ogy and a five-speed gearbox, returning 67.3mpg on the combined cycle and emitting just 105 g/km of CO₂, meaning it qualifies for free first-year VED, and just £20 per annum thereafter.

But while it might be miserly at the pumps, the Jetta Limited Edition doesn't skimp on the luxuries.

Multi-function

Standard SE features include a leather-trimmed handbrake, gearknob and multi-function steering wheel, DAB digital radio, Bluetooth telephone connectivity, USB and iPod audio connections and cruise control. On top of these, the Jetta Limited Edition adds Volkswagen's RNS 315 touchscreen satellite navigation system, front fog-lights, front and rear parking sensors,

rear tinted glass, 16in 'Perth' alloys and a Convenience Pack consisting of an auto-dimming rear-view mirror, electrically foldable door mirrors with puddle lights, and automatic headlights and windscreen wipers.

The Jetta Limited Edition comes in three colours: Deep Black Pearl, Reflex Silver or Platinum Grey Metallic.

The Volkswagen Jetta Sport 2.0-litre TDI DSG was voted The Caravan Club Towcar of the Year 2012 and 2013. It is the only car to have won this prestigious title for two consecutive years. The Jetta Limited Edition has a towing capacity of 1,400kg (braked, 12 per cent incline), with a maximum noseweight capacity of 75 kg. To find out more, visit your local Volkswagen retailer – www.volksvagen.co.uk/find-a-retailer

Sporty Octavia is a great combination

DELIVERING the perfect combination of sportiness, space and functionality, the new Octavia vRS takes Skoda performance to a new level. And with prices starting from £22,990, it also sets new standards for value.

Based on the acclaimed third-generation Octavia launched earlier this year, the new Octavia vRS model made its world debut at the 2013 Goodwood Festival of Speed, showcasing a host of engineering innovations, dramatic design and pulse-quickening performance.

Equipped with a host of standard features designed to fully exploit the car's performance potential, the new Octavia vRS is set to continue the UK's love affair with the vRS badge. With new technologies combining to make the car lighter and more affordable to run, the new model is the most complete vRS package ever offered.

Engineering

"The new Octavia vRS has a very special place in the heart of everyone at Skoda," says Alasdair Stewart, brand director Skoda UK.

"It unites our love of motorsport, sharp design and bold engineering, and is one of the most exciting cars we've ever made. We're confident that the new Octavia's unique mix of space, practicality and performance give it a real edge in an area of the market where we have enjoyed fantastic growth over recent years."

Offered in both hatchback and estate forms, the new Octavia vRS's



The estate delivers 610 litres of luggage room with seats in position

bold, motorsport-inspired design pays homage to its legendary predecessors. Despite its obvious sporting ambitions, the new Octavia vRS is as practical and clever as the award-winning standard models.

The hatch offers 590 litres of boot space with the rear seats in position, while the estate delivers 610 litres of luggage room. With the rear seats folded, the figures rise to 1,580 litres and 1,740 litres respectively.

At the heart of the new Octavia vRS is an engine line-up that is as powerful and exciting as it is frugal and clean. Two advanced powerplants are available: a 2.0 TSI petrol that generates 220PS, and the most powerful diesel engine ever to be offered in an Octavia

in the form of a 2.0 TDI 184PS. Both are available with the choice of a six-speed manual transmission or a DSG automatic.

To allow drivers to fully exploit the vRS's performance potential, Skoda has engineered a new chassis set-up that features a lowered ride height (12mm hatch, 13mm estate) and advanced multi-link rear suspension design.

Electronic differential lock (XDS) is fully integrated into the Octavia's electronic stability control (ESC) system, and helps improves traction in corners. The new Octavia also introduces a new progressive steering system that varies the amount of lock required according to road speed.

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Models shown for illustrative purposes: Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC Si Manual in optional White Orchid Pearl, Civic 1.8 i-VTEC EX GT Manual in Milano Red with optional 18-inch Krypton alloy wheels and CR-V 2.2 i-DTEC EX in optional Crystal Black Pearl.

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Index

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2 Leisure Time

3 Home & Services

4 Pets & Animals

5 Business & Farming

6 Property

7 Jobs

8 Motoring

9 Local Information

10 Personals

lost & found

LOST N black male cat, neutered, last seen yesterday, Bushbury Lane, near St Mary's Church. Family devastated. 07906 852193.

LOST N Volvo keys on job, Tettenhall Green, near cricket club, August 8. Reward for safe return. 07990 521300.

1 Family

elderly & disabled

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2 Leisure Time

boats & water sports

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LOOK

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holiday feature

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PEUGEOT 106 Quicksilver, 1.4, v reg, silver, alloy wheels, MoT, sunroof, spoiler, ideal first car, £850. 07799 168381.

NISSAN ALMERA 1.5SE, 2003, 8 months, MoT, met silver, lady owner, 1,75k, 0791 424125.

PEUGEOT 306 1.6, 1999, 82,000 miles, 6cd, diesel, tax, MoT, £325, ono. 01902 887255.

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£1,250.

RENAULT MEGANE COUPE PRIVILEGE PLUS 2001, 72,734 miles, silver, long MoT, tax, alloys, full leather interior, petrol, lady owner from 2002.

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RENAULT MEGANE COUPE 20

Rivals are defeated as George lift trophy

Warwick & Worcester Premier Cup Final
The George 160
Greville 134

IN front of a good crowd The George first team defeated rivals Greville to take the W&W Premier Cup and earn a place in next year's British Team Championship.

Wins by Pete Davenport (21-12), Steve Darling (21-17) and Marc Wilson (21-19) saw The George lead by eight shots at halfway.

The George pulled away in the second half after wins by Steve Dicken, Elliot McGuinness and Phil Clinton to complete a 26-shot victory.

W&W Premier Division 1

The George 252

Brookhill 133

The First team recorded a big 119-shot home win against Brookhill having all 12 winners in the match.

S-Staffs Premier Division

M&M Cheslyn Hay 236

The George 158

Despite going down to a 76 shot defeat, the second team picked up four valuable points in their relegation fight. Wins came from Lee Dicken (21-9) and Martin McGuinness (21-17) plus 21-20 wins from Adrian Ford and Ray Broadbent.

W&W Alliance Division 3

Lea Hall 211

The George 213

The Third team clinched the league title with this two-shot victory.

Blackbird's loss costly as run ends

DUDLEY saw their winning record in the National League come to an end as they went down 49-41 at Kent.

With No.1 Lewis Blackbird missing due to Premier League commitments, the Heathens were unable to snatch a point from Central Park after eight consecutive league wins.

Although Ashley Morris and Paul Starke made double figures, the visitors managed only three race wins without their No.1.

Dan Greenwood and Gareth Isherwood put in solid displays, but the Heathens lacked firepower.

KENT 49: Ben Morley 12, David Mason 10+2, Jackington 10, Steve Boxal 7, Benji Compton 7, Adam Kirby 2,

DUDLEY 41: Paul Starke 13, Ashley Morris 10+1, Dan Greenwood 6+2, Gareth Isherwood 5+1, Nathan Greaves 4+2, Max Clegg 3+1, Lewis Blackbird R/R.

Back on track after a convincing win

DUDLEY Heathens quickly brushed off their first league defeat of the season as they bounced back to thrash Isle of Wight 60-31 at Monmore Green, writes Nigel Pearson.

Having suffered a narrow loss at Kent 24 hours earlier, the former-Cradley club returned to their brilliant best with an emphatic victory against a strong Islanders side.

Lewis Blackbird and Ashley Morris both stormed to faultless maximums as Heathens ran riot with a powerful display.

Yet while Blackbird flew through the card with an effortless

showing, Morris made things much harder for himself – being forced to pull off several daring manoeuvres to remain unbeaten.

He magnificently fought from the back in heats 13 and 15 to combine with Blackbird for two 5-Is to complete a superb night.

Worked

Morris said: "It was a good meeting for all of us – everyone worked hard and we got the result which we needed. We didn't dwell on the Kent meeting too much – we all put that well and truly behind us with a great performance. I was

really happy with my own performance."

Dudley stormed into a 10-point lead in the opening five races – and any hopes of an Isle of Wight comeback were all but extinguished when Adam Ellis fell while challenging Blackbird for the lead as he took a tactical ride in heat six.

Although Blackbird and Morris were the star men for the home side, they received magnificent support from all areas of the side.

Paul Starke put in a classy

display as usual to make double figures – whilst Max Clegg and Dan Greenwood also suffered just one defeat apiece with the latter in particular enjoying a confidence-boosting evening.

Chipped

Middle order man Gareth Isherwood chipped away to contribute vital points and although Nathan Greaves endured a nightmare evening his troubles were comfortably covered by his in-form team mates.

Team boss, Will Pottinger said: "It was a lot easier than we were

expecting in the end against a side tipped by many to finish top of the league at the start of the season. It was good to put right our loss against Kent, and it was an excellent performance from all the boys.

"It's good to put in another great showing to keep building our confidence and also add three more league points as we look to finish top of the table."

Dudley 60: Lewis Blackbird 15, Dan Greenwood 8+3, Gareth Isherwood 5+2, Nathan Greaves 1+1, Adam Ellis 9, Tom Perry 8, Danny Ritchie 4+1, Brendan Johnson 4, Chris Widman 3+2, Danny Stoneman 3+1, Ben Hopwood R/R.

Fine start but firsts lose out in derby

Stourbridge 1st XI 178-3
Halesowen 1st XI 177-8
Stourbridge win

AFTER losing to Owestry the prospects were brighter of winning the local derby against Halesowen 1st XI.

Halesowen openers Hassan Quami and Mohammed Ishtiaq looked in form until, and against the run of play, good fielding resulted in the run of Quami for 21.

The turning point came when the 17-year-old pacer, Ali Shah, had the opener Ishtiaq caught for 62 and with the score remaining on 117 bowled Mohammad Shaib for 11.

Stour continued their dominance taking five opposition wickets for 145. Rameez Pinjara (17), Wes Griffiths (18) and Charles Tromans helped their side bat out the allocated 50 overs eight wickets down.

An opening stand of 104 between Alex Bingham and James Lawley saw Stour cruising.

Lawley was first to go LBW to the spinner Rameez Pinjara for 26, the same bowler accounted for Bingham caught for 72. Andy Alexander (31) and Josh Banks (20) both not out saw their side to victory in the 37th over.

We can do better, says boss Kenny

KENNY JACKETT topped the table for the first time in charge of Wolves but promised supporters: "We can play better."

The Molineux club hit the top of League One with a 2-1 victory over Crawley on Friday.

It was a hard-earned third win in a row clinched by a dramatic late penalty.

But it was a game head coach Jackett conceded had been unkind to an impressive Crawley outfit who offered an early signal to Wolves that this campaign will not be without difficult challenges.

Jackett said: "Sometimes you have to find a way to win a game and I felt we did that."

Then Whithall turned provider to the in-form Haley Chatters.

The goal of the game came as Gilberto passed the ball to Richards who fired from 25 yards out. Manager Scott McKee said: "Bring on the season, we're in great shape and can't wait for it to start."

Good work on the left by Sophie

It's a high five for Yeltz Ladies during warm-up



Rachel Letford being pursued as she heads for goal to score for Halesowen Ladies against Bradwell

Bradwell 0 Halesowen 5

WITH some key players back the Yeltz crew were looking good as they headed to take on Bradwell.

Halesowen started a bit too quick and the ball was kicked around hastily, but as Rachel Letford scored with a through-ball by Sarah Hamill on eight minutes, The Yeltz began to settle in.

Good work on the left by Sophie

Richards found Gemma Moss who scored into an empty net.

The Yeltz defence dealt with anything thrown at them, it was good to see them using Hannah Tromans the keeper as a fifth defender.

Right and left backs Jo Butler and Lauren Affron got forward to assist the strikers, Dominique McKee and Lauren Gilberto were very strong as the centre backs.

Girl of the game, Sian Whithall, scored within 10 minutes of the restart.

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Leaders up next as Hayes win point

Walsall Wood 1
Heath Hayes 1

THIS keenly-fought local derby ended all square after a game that was never a classic, but had enough action to keep a good-sized holiday crowd interested until the end.

There was little goal-mouth action in the first half with two tame headers from Dan Lomas and Tom Green from Hayes. The Wood's only worthwhile effort came from Craig Hancock.

The half did end rather controversially when the referee ignored strong Wood appeals that Adam Jenkins brought down Ahmet Bilgim on the edge of the box.

After a period of sustained pressure Hayes finally made the breakthrough on 58 minutes when Mitch Teece fired home superbly from 25 yards. But Wood were level within five minutes.

A right wing corner from Andre Gonzales found the head of Lee Stretton. His effort was fumbled by Jenkins but Stretton was first to react to the loose ball and prodded it into the net.

Hayes skipper Adam Robinson put in a man of the match performance to inspire his young teammates and they thoroughly deserved their first away point of the season.

On Saturday Hayes have a rearranged home fixture against league leaders Highgate United.

Loan switch for Boukari

WOLVES midfielder Razak Boukari has this week completed his season-long loan to FC Sochaux – exactly a year since he arrived at Molineux in a £2.5m switch.

The Togo winger passed his medical in France last week, but failed to agree terms.

However, after a round of fresh talks, the 26-year-old has now completed the paperwork in order to be released by the Ligue 1 outfit.

Boukari was signed by former boss Stale Solbakken from Rennes but made only four league appearances before his season was ended by a persistent calf injury.

His departure means Wolves have succeeded in removing another player from their wage bill.

Kevin Doyle and Bakary Sako are the remaining stars whose future remains unclear ahead of the end of the transfer window.

I needed more time at Wolves, says ex-boss



Dean Saunders

SACKED boss Dean Saunders broke his silence on losing the Wolves job after relegation and claimed he should have been given more time.

Saunders, who was axed within 48 hours of the club's slide into League One, spoke for the first time over the weekend about the decision.

The 49-year-old replaced Stale Solbakken in January of this year, but he was unable to prevent a second successive relegation after winning only five of his 20 games in charge.

Saunders was always a contentious appointment by owner

Wolves

Steve Morgan after the former Villa striker had been relegated with Doncaster the year before.

But he said: "It wasn't what I thought it was going to be. I obviously have to be careful what I say because you have to sign little bits of paper to get paid. I'm just disappointed I never really got the chance to do what I wanted to do."

"I went to Wrexham when it was in a bit of a mess, it took me two and

a half years to turn that club around. I got them to the top of the league in the end, then I went to Doncaster and it took me less time, 18 months.

"It takes time. I went to Wolves and I didn't spend a penny, and I lasted three and a half months or whatever it was, so I'm disappointed about that but I have to just regroup and not let it affect my self-belief and wait for the next job."

Saunders admitted that he was hoping to be given the task of leading Wolves back to the Championship – a job subsequently handed

to Kenny Jackett. He said injuries had played a key role in the downfall of his team and his regime.

"We got it going. We won five out of six and I know it sounds like I'm making a load of excuses, but we got a lot of injuries towards the end. Bakary Sako, Dave Edwards, David Davis and Carl Ikeme," he added.

"We ended up not getting enough points and as well as that all the teams around us kept on winning. I'm disappointed with what happened but I would have liked the chance to put it right."

Jackett no pressure for sales

KENNY JACKETT says there is no financial necessity for Wolves to sell Kevin Doyle or Bakary Sako.

The duo have been linked with moves away from Molineux all summer but have started the League One season impressively.

Jackett's response comes as Wolves braced themselves for a bid for Sako from Nottingham Forest.

In a local newspaper poll, in which thousands of fans voted, more than 90 per cent said they would prefer the duo to stay, despite the financial burden their wages might place on the club.

Both are among the top earners, with Doyle on an estimated £40,000 a week, while Sako's weekly wage is thought to be in the region of £25,000.

But Jackett is under no pressure to get either off the wage bill and says the club will only sell if another club matches Wolves' valuation.

"They are both in the team and that's a good thing," he said. "Their performances have been good, as have those of the whole side.

"They do attract some speculation but really, from my point of view, they are part of the group.

"We will see how their standard of play continues, he added.

Dudley's hopes for Cup dashed

Dudley T 1 Shawbury Utd 2
STRIKER Dave Howarth scored two for Shawbury to dash Dudley Town's hopes in their FA Cup extra-preliminary round replay at The Dell Stadium.

Howarth opened the scoring, but Geoff Hill hit back to put Dudley back in the hunt, only for Howarth to strike again. The winners now face Newcastle Town.

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Halesowen player being chased down by The Scholar's Tesfa Robinson during The Yeltz's 3-1 away victory

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